





Documentary History  
OF THE  
Campaign upon the  
Niagara Frontier  
IN 1813.

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PART V.  
January to June, 1813.

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COLLECTED AND EDITED FOR THE LUNDY'S LANE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BY LIEUT. COL. E. CRUIKSHANK, AUTHOR OF THE  
STORY OF "BUTLER'S RANGERS," &c., &c.



# THE DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF THE CAMPAIGN

UPON THE

## Niagara Frontier

IN THE YEAR 1813.

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**PART I. (1813.)**

*JANUARY TO JUNE, 1813.*

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**By LIEUT.-COLONEL E. CRUIKSHANK,**

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## PREFACE.

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THE documents published in this volume have been collected from many widely scattered sources. The transcripts of papers from the Canadian Archives are unquestionably of the greatest importance. These exceed a hundred, and form about a quarter of the book. Very few of these have been published in full before. The despatches printed in the London Gazette were usually mutilated by the omission of important passages, which it was considered inexpedient to publish at the time. The editor deeply regrets that he has been unable to obtain access to the archives of the War and Navy Departments of the United States. The official letters now republished from the American State Papers and the Historical Register of the United States were probably altered and abridged in the same way before publication. Messrs. A. C. Macdonnell and L. H. Irving have loaned militia order books, and considerable information has been obtained from the Kingston Garrison order book, now in the Canadian Archives. George Murray Jarvis, Esq., of Ottawa, has generously furnished copies of documents of great interest. The Tompkins' Papers in the New York State Library have supplied a few letters of much importance. The Editor's warmest acknowledgements are due to Miss Catharine Claus and Miss Janet Carnochan of Niagara and Miss Amy Ball of Thorold, Ont., Lieut.-Col. G. Villiers Turner of Reading, Eng., Revd. W. C. Plenderleath of Exeter, Eng., Messrs. P. A. Porter and J. N. Granger of Buffalo, N. Y., J. H. Coyne of St. Thomas, Wm. Kirby of Niagara and Dr. T. Clark of St. Catharines, Ont., for the use of papers in their possession.

Among the newspapers of the period which have been laid under contribution, the unique file of the *Buffalo Gazette*, preserved in the Buffalo Public Library, occupies the first place, but the *Quebec Mercury*, *Montreal Gazette*, the *Statesman*, *National Advocate* and *Evening Post* of New York, the *United States Gazette* and *Daily American Advertiser* of Philadelphia, the *Whig* and *Niles' Register* of Baltimore, and the *Ontario Repository* of Canandaigua, N. Y., also deserve mention.

Fort Erie, 4th November, 1901.



# **The Documentary History of the Campaign on the Niagara Frontier in 1813.**

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## **PART I.**

**JANUARY TO JUNE, 1813.**

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### **An Address from the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada to the Inhabitants of the Province. (August, 1812.)**

Already we have the joy to remark that the spirit of loyalty has burst forth in all its ancient splendor.

The Militia in all parts of the Province have volunteered their services with acclamation and displayed a degree of energy worthy of the British name.

They do not forget the blessings and privileges which they enjoy under the protection and fostering care of the British Empire, whose government is only felt in this country by acts of the purest justice and most pleasing and efficacious benevolence.

When men are called upon to defend everything they call precious, their wives and children, their friends and possessions, they ought to be inspired with the noblest resolutions, and they will not be easily frightened by menaces or conquered by force.

And beholding, as we do, the flame of patriotism burning from one end of the Canadas to the other, we cannot but entertain the most pleasing anticipations.

Our enemies have indeed said that they can subdue this country by proclamation, but it is our part to prove to them that they are sadly mistaken, that the population is determinedly hostile and that the few who might be otherwise inclined will find it prudent for their safety to be faithful.

Innumerable attempts will be made by falsehood to detach you from your allegiance; for our enemies, in imitation of their European master, trust more to treachery than to force, and they will no doubt make use of many of those lies which, unfortunately for the virtuous part of those States and the peace and happiness of the world, had too much success during the American rebellion. They will tell you that they are come to give you freedom. Yes, the base slaves of the most contemptible faction that ever distracted the

affairs of any nation—the minions of the very sycophants who lick the dust of the feet of Bonaparte—will tell you that they are come to communicate the blessings of liberty to this Province, but you have only to look at your situation to put such hypocrisy to confusion.

Trusting more to treachery than open hostility, our enemies have already spread their emissaries through the country to seduce our fellow subjects from their allegiance by promises as false as the principles on which they are founded. A law has therefore been enacted for the speedy detection of such emissaries and for their condign punishment on conviction—a law which it will not be easy to escape.

Remember when you go forth to the combat that you fight not for yourselves alone but for the whole world.

You are defeating the most formidable conspiracy against the civilization of man that ever was contrived—a conspiracy threatening greater barbarism and misery than followed the downfall of the Roman Empire—that you have now an opportunity of proving your attachment to the parent State, which contends for the relief of oppressed nations, the last pillar of true liberty and the last refuge of humanity.

Persevere as you have begun in your strict obedience to the laws and your attention to military discipline; deem no sacrifice too costly which secures the enjoyment of our happy constitution, follow with your countrymen in Britain the paths of virtue, and like them you shall triumph over all your unprincipled foes.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

(From a copy in the Memoirs of Colonel John Clark.)

**From the Memoirs of Colonel John Clark of Port Dalhousie.**

British forces engaged under the command of Major-General Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe after the death of General Brock, who fell at the onset, Queenston Heights, Oct. 13th, 1812:—

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No. 1—Major Merritt, Militia Cavalry.

No. 2—Capt. Bullock's 6th Company, 41st Grenadiers.

No. 3—Capt. J. Rowe, Militia Flank Co., 2d Lincoln.

No. 4—Capt. R. Hamilton's Militia Flank Co., 2d Lincoln.

No. 5—Capt. S. Hatt's Militia Flank Co., 5th Lincoln.

No. 6—Capt. J. Durand, Militia Flank Co., 5th Lincoln.

No. 7—Capt. J. Chisholm, Militia Flank Co., 2d York.

No. 8—Volunteer sedentary Militia. The Mohawk Indians under the command of Norton, their chief.



Right wing, commanded by the Hon. Lieut.-Colonel Thomas Clark, 2nd Lincoln Militia. This force may be estimated at not more than 350 men—regulars, militia and Indians.

Left wing, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Johnson Butler of the 4th Lincoln Militia. Field guns under Colonel Crowther of the 41st, Lieutenant J. C. Ball and Lieutenant Lewis Clement.

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Mohawk Indians under Brant, their chief :—

No. 1—Major Dennis' Co. of the 49th Regiment.

No. 2—Major Williams' Co. of the 49th Regiment.

No. 3—Capt. J. Crook's flank Co., 1st Lincoln Militia.

No. 4—Capt. J. McEwen's flank Co., 1st Lincoln Militia.

No. 5—Capt. D. Cameron's flank Co., York Militia.

No. 6—Capt. S. Heward's flank Co., York Militia.

No. 7—Lieutenant J. Butler's and Ensign J. Dittrick, 4th Lincoln Militia.

No. 8—Volunteer sedentary Militia.

N. B.—The left wing may be estimated at 350 men—regulars, militia and Indians; the left wing about the same proportion with the right.

The British forces charged on the American forces at the double-quick, and after the Americans firing a volley [they] retreated over the heights to the water's edge and soon after sent up a flag of truce, surrendering unconditionally to General Sheaffe, which flag of surrender was received by General Sheaffe stationed in a battery commanding the river about half way up the mountain road, and the writer, John Clark, though too late to be in the fight, was in the battery at the surrender, and with his detachment assisted conveying the prisoners to Fort George—972 prisoners taken.

The British force stationed on the heights above Queenston at the line consisted of the grenadier and light companies of the 49th Regiment of the line under the command of Major James Dennis and Captain Williams; two militia flank companies from York, Captains Heward and Cameron; two companies of the 5th Lincoln Militia under Captains Samuel Hatt and James Durand, with a few of the Six Nations warriors under Captain Norton and young John Brant.

The enemy commenced crossing from Lewiston before daylight, screening themselves before the heights.

After daylight our batteries, three in number, commenced

playing upon the boats crossing with the enemy, but those already landed gained the heights.

Major-General Sir Isaac Brock, accompanied by Major-General Sheaffe and his staff, Lieut.-Colonel Glegg, Aide-de-Camp and Military Secretary, Brigade Major Evans, Lieut.-Colonel John Macdonnell, Militia Aide-de-Camp, and Attorney-General of Upper Canada, Lieut.-Colonel Robert Nichol, Militia Quartermaster General, and Major J. Cummings, Militia Deputy Quartermaster, escorted by Major Merritt and his troop of militia cavalry, proceeded from the headquarters at Fort George, Niagara, after the firing at Queenston had commenced. On his arrival he found some confusion among our forces, when he immediately rallied them and placing himself on the right of the Grenadiers of the 49th, his own regiment, advanced upon the enemy when some of the enemy's skirmishers in front picked off our beloved General Brock.

Immediately afterward the gallant, amiable and youthful Aide-de-Camp Macdonnell fell mortally wounded, of which he died the following day.

The bodies of these heroes were at once removed to a dwelling near by, when General Sheaffe assumed the command and retired with the forces to Vrooman's battery in the rear, there to await reinforcements from the right, left and centre. In the meantime our artillery retarded the progress of the enemy in crossing the Niagara River.

Major Dennis placed one of his guns so adroitly as to strike and sink one of their boats with its contents after [which] the American Militia refused to cross the boundary between themselves and Canada. The Six Nations warriors, covered by a copse of wood on the heights directly in front of the enemy, kept them from advancing further.

About 10 o'clock A. M. reinforcements under the Hon. Lieut.-Colonel Thomas Clark [appeared] to the [right] of the enemy's position, consisting of Capt. Bullock's detachments of the 41st Regulars from Chippawa and the 2nd and 3rd Lincoln Militia flank companies, with other volunteers from the Sedentary Militia. Lieut.-Col. Johnson Butler of the 4th Lincoln, with a detachment of the light company of the 41st under Lieut. McIntire, together with a portion of the 1st and 4th Lincoln flank companies joined the forces awaiting them at Vrooman's Battery.

They marched at once in a circuitous route through the fields and ascended the mountain at the lime kiln between Queenston and St. David's and joined their associates in arms under the Hon. Lieut.-Colonel Thomas Clark, when the whole advanced under the command of General Sheaffe upon the enemy's position in front.

When within the proper range a deafening yell was heard, a deadly volley poured in and a charge made at double quick time upon the enemy which drove them over the heights to the water's edge and some of them found a watery grave in attempting to swim the river.

Soon after appeared Colonel Scott at the head of his regulars, prisoners of war, as also General Wadsworth at the head of the United States [Militia] in like condition.

(From MSS. Memoirs in possession of Dr. Clark, St. Catharines, Ont.)

### **Lieut. Patrick McDonogh, and U. S. Artillery, to his sister.**

CAMP, LEWISTON, October 16th, 1812.

Half an hour before day the troops crossed (composed principally of militia and about 600 regulars) under a very heavy fire from the enemy's batteries of red hot shell, grape and round shot. In less than two hours the two batteries were taken and their troops retreated in all directions, leaving us in complete possession of the hill and landing. A skirmishing ensued, which lasted until two o'clock, the Englishmen dropping in all quarters, but after collecting their forces for seven miles around they brought a strong reinforcement of English and Indians, and from that moment the scene began to change, although obstinately contested by our men, who fought like heroes but without regularity or order, being entirely conducted by militia officers. Major General Van Rensselaer, who ordered the attack, for certainly there was no plan in there being not even boats provided to take us over, is a general of this State, and I believe wished to have the merit of doing as much mischief as he could without the assistance or advice of an officer or private of the regular army. It was with difficulty that we could procure permission to partake in it. General Smyth and his brigade were on their way to this place—his brigade consisting of twelve hundred fine men—when he (Van R.) sent an express with orders for him to return, when two or three hundred regulars at furthest, more than we had, would have decided in our favor and prevented our brave soldiers from being made prisoners. The militia whilst in action fought bravely, but they would leave it when they thought proper and could not be prevailed on to return. Out of 600 regulars there are not more than 250 that are not killed or wounded and 130 are prisoners. Our colonel is a prisoner. Lieut. Roach is slightly wounded through the arm by a rifle ball, and none of our men dangerously. Major Mullany is a prisoner. When the troops surrendered he hid himself in the rocks for a day, but the English sent two officers and two officers that were prison-

ers and a strong guard to prevent the Indians from scalping those that were scattered, which they were busily engaged in doing when the major with six privates gave himself up. He behaved very well during the action. The English have lost most of their officers. General Brock is killed and his aid, McDonald of Detroit, mortally wounded; the 49th Regiment, half their choicest men that they boasted so much of, cut to pieces; of two fine companies of grenadiers not a man left and a great many Indians killed. They can say that they defeated us, but they have no more to boast of. You may guess that they were well pinched. The battle ended between four and five P. M.; fifteen minutes later a flag of truce arrived, requesting a cessation of hostilities for three days. It was granted and will terminate to-day.

General Smyth's brigade arrived here yesterday; the Major-General has given up the command here to the Brigadier and will, I am in hopes, return to civil life. I think that in a few days we will make them look about them, and I hope to direct my next from Canada. This is a very poor country—miserable roads and nothing to be had for love or money. The land opposite is very inviting, it looks well and I understand they live well. The river between us is not wider than the Schuylkill. \* \* \* \*

I close expecting to be in action shortly. They have received a reinforcement opposite; we hear a heavy firing from the forts, 7 miles distant. Direct to Fort Niagara or near it.

(From advance sheets of Records of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia.)

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(From the Kingston Gazette, Kingston, (Upper Canada,) Vol. II, No. 48, Saturday, October 31, 1812.)

(Printed and published by Stephen Miles, a few doors east of Walker's Hotel.)

Mr. Editor, if you have room in your Gazette for the enclosed very interesting letter it cannot fail to be highly acceptable to the public.

A SUBSCRIBER.

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BROWN'S POINT, October 14, 1812.

MY DEAR SIR:

The affair of yesterday terminated so gloriously for this Province and does so much honor to its spirited defenders that I hasten to give an account of it to you, whom I know to be most warmly interested in the success of the present contest.

Few things occurred either of general moment or of peculiar interest which I had not an opportunity of observing, and what I

did see, from its novelty, its horror and the anxiety it occasioned made so great an impression on my mind that I have the picture of it all fresh and perfect in my imagination and am anxious to detail the particulars to you, because I know your heart will glow with fervor at our success, while it feelingly and sincerely laments the price at which it was purchased.

About half an hour before daylight yesterday morning ('Tuesday, the 13th of October,) being stationed at one of the batteries between Fort George and Queenston, I heard a heavy cannonade from Fort Grey, situated on the height of the mountain on the American side and commanding the town of Queenston. The motions of the enemy had for a few days before indicated an intention to attack and the launching of boats and incessant activity generally on the other side occasioned suspicions which called for the utmost vigilance and precaution. The lines had been watched with all the care and attention which the extent of our force rendered possible, and such was the fatigue our men underwent from want of rest and exposure to the inclement weather which had just preceded, that they welcomed with joy the prospect of a field, which they thought would be decisive or allow them at least some leisure for the future. Their spirits were high and their confidence in the General unbounded. They despaired not of the event. From our battery at Brown's Point, about two miles from Queenston, we had the whole scene most completely in our view. The sight was awful and solemn. Day was just glimmering. The cannon from both sides roared incessantly, shells were bursting in the air and the side of the mountain above Queenston was illumined by the continual discharge of small arms. This last circumstance convinced us that some of the enemy had landed and in a few moments, as day advanced and objects became more visible, we saw a number of Americans in boats attempting to land upon our shore, amidst a tremendous shower of shot of all descriptions, which was skilfully and incessantly levelled at them. No orders had been given to Capt. Cameron, who commanded our detachment of York Militia, what conduct to pursue in case of an attack at Queenston, and as it had been suggested to him that in the event of a landing being attempted there the enemy would probably endeavor by various attacks to distract our force, he hesitated at first as to the propriety of withdrawing his men from the station assigned them to defend. He soon saw, however, that every exertion was required in aid of the troops engaged above us and without further delay marched us to the scene of action. On our road General Brock passed us. He had galloped from Niagara unaccompanied by his aide-de-camp or a single attendant. He

waved his hand to us, desired us to follow with expedition and proceeded with all speed to the mountain. Lieut-Col. McDonell and Capt. Glegg passed immediately after.

At the time the enemy began to cross there were but two companies of the 49th Regiment, the Grenadiers and Light Company and, I believe, three small companies of militia to oppose them. Their reception was such as did honor to the courage and management of our troops. The grape shot and musquet balls poured upon them at close quarters as they approached the shore made incredible havoc. A single discharge of grape from a brass six-pounder, directed by Captain Dennis of the 49th Grenadiers, destroyed 15 in one boat. Three of the batteaux landed at the hollow below Mr. Hamilton's garden at Queenston, and were met by a party of militia and a few regulars, who slaughtered almost the whole of them, taking the rest prisoners. Several other boats were so shattered and disabled that the men in them threw down their arms and came on shore merely to deliver themselves up as prisoners of war.

Thus far things had proceeded successfully, and the General on his approach to the mountain was greeted with the intelligence that all our villainous aggressors were killed or taken. As we advanced with our company we met troops of Americans on their way to Fort George under guard, and the road was lined with miserable wretches suffering under wounds of all descriptions and crawling to our houses for protection and comfort. The spectacle struck us, who were unused to such scenes, with horror, but we hurried to the mountain impressed with the idea that the enemy's attempt was already frustrated and the business of the day nearly completed. Another brigade of four boats was just then crossing and the 49th light company, who had been stationed on the mountain, were ordered down to assist in preventing their landing. No sooner had they descended than the enemy appeared in force above them. They had probably landed before the rest, while it was yet dark, and had remained concealed by the rough crags of the mountain. They possessed themselves of our battery on the height. General Brock rushed up the mountain on foot with some troops to dislodge them, but they were so advantageously posted and kept up so tremendous a fire that the small number ascending were driven back. The General then rallied and was proceeding up the right of the mountain to attack them in flank when he received a ball in his breast. Several of the 49th assembled round him—one poor fellow was severed in the middle by a ball and fell across the General. They succeeded, however, in conveying his body to Queenston. Just at this instant we came up. We were halted a



few moments in Mr. Hamilton's garden, where we were exposed to the shot from the American battery at Fort Grey and from several field pieces direct y opposite to us, besides an incessant and disorderly fire of musquetry from the sides of the mountain. One of our men had his leg shot off in the ranks by a cannon ball, which carried away the calf of another poor fellow's leg. In a few minutes we were ordered to advance to the mountain. The nature of the ground and the galling fire prevented any kind of order in ascending. We soon scrambled to the top at the right of the battery which the Americans had gained and were in some measure covered by the woods. There we stood, and gathering the men as they advanced formed them into line. The fire was too hot to admit of delay. Scarcely more than 50 were collected, about 30 of whom were of our company headed by Capt. Cameron, and the remainder of the 49th light company commanded by Capt. Williams. Lieut.-Colonel McDonell was there, mounted, and animating the men to charge, seconded with great spirit and valor by Capt. Williams, who exclaimed, "Feel firmly to the right, my lads; advance steadily; charge them home and they cannot stand you." But the attempt was unsuccessful, and must have been dictated rather by a fond hope of regaining what had been lost by a desperate effort, than by any conviction of its practicability. The enemy were just in front, covered by bushes and logs, were in no kind of order and were three or four hundred in number. They perceived us forming and at about 30 yards distance fired. Lieut.-Colonel McDonell, who was on the left of our party most heroically calling upon us to advance, received a shot in his body and fell—his horse was at the same instant killed. I cannot recall my feelings at the moment. Capt. Williams, who was at the other extremity of our little band, fell the next moment, apparently dead. The remainder of our men advanced a few paces, discharged their pieces and retired down the mountain. Lieutenant McLean was wounded in the thigh, and Capt. Cameron in his attempt to save Col. McDonell exposed himself to a shower of musquetry, which he most miraculously escaped. He succeeded in bearing off his friend, and Capt. Williams recovered from the momentary effect of the wound in his head in time to escape down the mountain. This happened, I think, about ten o'clock.

Our forces rallied about a mile below. Gen. Sheaffe, with the 41st from Fort George, nearly 300 in number, came up soon after with the field-pieces of the Car Brigade. All the force that could be collected was now mustered and we marched through the fields back of Queenston, ascended the mountain on the right and remained in the woods in rear of the enemy till intelligence was gained of their position. During this time the Americans were

landing fresh troops unmolested and carrying back their dead and wounded in their return boats. About 3 o'clock P. M., General Sheaffe advanced through the woods towards the battery on the mountain with the main body (composed of the 41st and the Niagara Militia Flank Companies, with the field pieces,) on the right. The Mohawk Indians and a Niagara company of Blacks proceeded along the brow of the mountain on the left, and the light company of the 49th with our company of militia broke through the centre. In this manner we rushed through the woods to the encamping ground on the mountain, which the enemy then occupied, and which had been the scene of their morning's success. The Indians were the first in advance. As soon as they perceived the enemy they uttered their terrible war-whoop, and rushing rapidly upon them commenced a most destructive fire. Our troops instantly sprung forward from all quarters, joining in the shout. The Americans gave a volley, then retreated tumultuously and fled by hundreds down the mountain. At that moment Capt. Bullock, with 150 of the 41st and two flank companies of militia, appeared advancing on the road from Chippawa. The consternation of the enemy was complete. Though double in number they stopped not to withstand their pursuers, but fled with the utmost precipitation. Never were men more miserably situated—they had no place to retreat to, and were driven by a furious and avenging enemy, from whom they had little mercy to expect, to the brink of the mountain which overhangs the river. They fell in numbers—the river presented a horrid spectacle, filled with poor wretches who plunged into its stream from the impulse of fear, with scarcely the hope or probability of being saved. Many leaped down the side of the mountain to avoid the horrors which pressed upon them and were dashed in pieces by the fall. The fire from the American batteries ceased. Two officers were now observed coming up the hill with a white flag, and with some difficulty the slaughter was suspended. They were conducted up the mountain to Gen. Sheaffe. A cessation of hostilities for three days was asked for and assented to—Gen. Sheaffe very properly and considerably insisted upon the immediate destruction of their boats, which they permitted.

Thus about 4 o'clock P. M. ended the business of this day, so important and so interesting in its occurrences to the inhabitants of this Province. The invasion of our peaceful shores by its unprincipled and insidious neighbors has terminated in the entire loss of their army with everything brought over, not excepting their standard with the very *modest* device of the "Eagle Perched upon the Globe." The exact number of Americans landed cannot be easily ascertained by us, but we know that we have taken more

than 900 prisoners with 60 of their officers, probably their bravest and their best, and that, except the poor wounded men who were carried over in boats while they retained possession of the mountain, scarce a man has straggled back to relate to his country the disastrous event of an expedition planned by their unrighteous government to destroy our unoffending, and as they hoped defenceless, Province. Never was an infernal and unprovoked and unjust attempt at plunder and oppression more completely frustrated, and the view of dead bodies which strewed the ground, and the mangled carcasses of poor wounded suffering mortals who filled every room in the village, while it rent the heart and provoked the execration of their measures and those men that led the deluded wretches to their ruin, afforded a proud, a just and an honest exultation that the hallowed cause of our country had so gloriously prevailed.

Still, we have much to sorrow for. Our country has a loss to deplore which the most brilliant success cannot fully atone for, and private feelings will have received wounds which even time tho' it may soothe can never heal. The General, who had led our little army to victory, whose soul was wrapped up in our prosperity, and whose every energy was directed to our defence, is now shrouded in the grave. Brave to admiration and entertaining no idea but of conquering in so sacred a cause, he met the fate which he disdained to shun and ended a life which was an honor to his profession by a death which must ever be its glory. Who will not sympathize in another misfortune nearly related to the former, though of a nature more deeply interesting because it affects our nearer and more kindly feelings? I mean the death of Lieut.-Col. McDonell. This heroic young man, the constant attendant of the General, after his fall strove to support to the last a cause which should never be despaired of, because it involved in its event the very salvation of his country. But he was not reserved to witness its triumph. I have mentioned the manner of his death. His career was short but honorable, his end was premature but full of glory. He will be buried at the same time with the General. The tears of every lover of his country will honor their fate, and never can their memory be too much venerated. Our company of volunteers suffered considerably. One man was killed and eleven wounded, some of them very badly. But all these, tho' melancholy circumstances, are the inevitable consequences of war, and grateful should this Province be to Heaven if by a sacrifice of some of its gallant defenders it can save itself from unjust aggression and preserve to our Mother Country a possession which has been ever the object of her affection and will soon contribute eminently to her

prosperity. The cause of our enemies has received a deadly shock. They have lost a great number of their regular troops. Their militia were unwilling to partake in the enterprise, and it cannot be supposed that they will hereafter be more forward in a cause which was ever repugnant to their feelings, and which they now find to be as big with danger as it is hostile to every principle of humanity and right. They have besides lost some of their leading officers. Col. Van Rensselaer, who commanded the expedition, was wounded in the boats and obliged to return. General Wadsworth, who succeeded him, is taken by us with several others of their field officers. All the arms they brought over have fallen into our hands. We, on the contrary, except in the calamitous instances I have mentioned, are not at all impaired in the means of defence against a similar invasion. The loss on our part was providentially small. Only twenty men have fallen in a contest in which four hundred of the enemy unquestionably perished. Our troops will have received fresh courage from their victory, and the cool tho' determined and vigorous conduct of General Sheaffe and the gallant behaviour and spirited exertions of the officers under his command on that occasion claim from us every confidence in the anticipation of the future.

(From a copy in possession of Lt.-Col. G. Villiers Turner, Reading, England.)

**Lient. Patrick McDonogh, 2d U. S. Artillery, to —**

BLACK ROCK, Nov. 13th, 1812.

Here we are, sometimes in grand spirits at others in the dumps; when there are any signs of crossing we are cheerful, but the thought of passing a dull winter on the banks of the river brings down the lip. Since my last the infantry were ordered to build huts to quarter in. After they had pitched upon the ground and some companies had struck their tents to march to it, an express arrived from General Dearborn or the Secretary of War which caused the order to be countermanded, and General Smyth in an address to the men of the State of New York says that in a few days we shall plant the American standard in Canada, that we will conquer or die, and that no savages shall cross to tarnish our ungathered laurels by ruthless deeds. Before this reaches you it will be in the Philadelphia newspapers. There was an order issued yesterday that the officers should dress as much like the men as possible, so that they could not be distinguished from them at 150 paces, and that the soldiers should be drilled in squatting or lying

down and loading their pieces. There are from 1,500 to 2,000 drafted militia coming on from Pennsylvania, 200 of which they say are riflemen, and that they will all cross. They are within two or three days march of here. After they get a few days drilling we may expect to move. It has been snowing lightly for the past three days, but the bottom not being good the snow has not remained any depth on the ground.

P. S.—Roach is getting much stronger; he sits up part of the day. Major Mullany is still here and says he will remain until we get the town-major opposite to exchange for him.

14th—I open my letter to mention the probable time the armistice will cease. I have just received orders to go to Niagara with twenty men for the purpose of bringing up all the ammunition and camp equipage there and to have them here by the 20th, when you may expect hostile operations will begin.

(From advance sheets of the Records of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia.)

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(Brig. Major Evans?) to Hon. Wm. D. Powell.

FORT GEORGE, 4th Dec., 1812.

MY DEAR SIR:—

I embrace a leisure moment to detail to you a few of the military occurrences which have taken place on our frontier. Previous to the 19th ulto. nothing worth recital took place. On that day the termination of the armistice was notified to us. A land enterprise had been contemplated whenever that event should happen, embracing the destruction of the battery opposite our fort, that of the contiguous houses affording shelter for their troops, and if practicable to attempt the capture of the fort, debouching by the Four Mile Creek, destroying the boats and depots established there, and finally returning by the lake by means of the *Prince Regent* and boats to have been stationed within pistol shot of the shore. This movement was to have been favored by a brisk cannonade on the fort of Niagara. For some reason or other the General abandoned the land enterprise and confined himself to the cannonade in which the enemy are stated to have lost one officer, and 10 killed and between 20 and 30 wounded. Ours was a half-pay officer and a soldier of the 49th killed and some trifling wounds. Outbuildings were consumed and the mess-house of the 41st. The town has sustained considerable injury. The houses most damaged are those of Mr. Symington, Mr. Forsyth and the one in which I live. The enemy has been particularly uncivil to me, having destroyed almost

everything in my quarters and my epaulettes stolen from my coat, and my bed was scarcely to be discovered, such was the ruin and destruction of everything around it. From that moment our toils and privations have been excessive. The dangers of the field have been nothing to what we have suffered. Scarcely an hour's rest any night, without any longer a single establishment for even a breakfast. At two in the morning of the 28th the enemy landed above Grand Island in 14 boats, each containing from 34 to 40 of their chosen troops and rowed by their desperate [sailors]? They were timely opposed by the field artillery which did much execution previous to their landing, but by some mistake or other unaccountable cause the proportion of the 49th stationed for the defence of the batteries did not do all that was reasonably expected of them. The batteries were in consequence carried, the guns spiked and the field artillery disabled. Poor King will, I fear, lose his leg. Lamont [is] wounded in five places, but expected to recover; some officers of the militia wounded and about 80 killed, wounded or prisoners; 36 of the militia and 49th gave themselves up as prisoners to the enemy. King is a prisoner. Our estimation of the enemy's loss is from 100 to 120, of whom about 40 are prisoners, including their great character, Captain King, General Smyth's A. D. C. The latter surrendered on reinforcements arriving; the others got off after burning many houses. Some hours after a second division of eighteen boats approached our shore, but on Col. Bishopp's appearance he easily repulsed them. From that period nothing but indications of crossing by the enemy. Of course you may imagine our anxiety and fatigue. Yesterday we received the most gratifying intelligence corroborated from many quarters. The enemy had 6,000 men and 113 boats. Their failure had excited such disgust that General Smyth had been repeatedly fired at, the belt of his A. D. C. shot off. The militia had expended all their ammunition, disembodied themselves and marched home. The regulars were dying upwards of ten a day, and the sickness increasing. Had I time I would transcribe Smyth's proclamation. It beats Hull's for falsehood. He openly declares that the British were bringing the savages to butcher their women and children, and offers a reward of 40 dollars for the spoils of every one who shall be killed. It is impudent and infamous throughout. We are still on the alert, prepared for whatever may happen. We have accounts from above. The enemy still at Fort Defiance. Young Elliott, the lawyer, and an Indian chief were killed in reconnoitering.

Poor old Major Campbell was buried yesterday; he was fairly worried and died of cold and anxiety.



We are all in spirits here. Myers and Bisshopp are looked up to from all quarters. The former commands the right of the line. It is in good hands. Our disposition and arrangements have of course had a complete change and our main strength now lies above Chippawa. Fort Erie has been summoned by General Smyth in presence of 6,000 of his troops embarked in their boats. A sure proof this of irresolution. You may imagine the answer returned.

On the night of the 28th, after having rode at least 70 miles during the day, and arranging our new line, I had the misfortune to sprain my ancle and wrist by my horse galloping in the darkness of the night against a wood fence. They have not, however, been sufficiently severe to cause a moment's confinement, nor have I since that period had my clothes off for two hours together. You may imagine I am now anxious to see my family, and I believe it is expected I should immediately descend, but as I have not yet abandoned this line for a single minute it would grieve me much at such a crisis to be taken away. Nothing but a positive injunction from headquarters shall compel me thereto.

(From MS. in possession of George Murray Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

**Lieut. Patrick McDonogh to his Parents.**

WILLIAMSVILLE, December 12th, 1812.

We are now encamped in the woods, building huts which we expect to get into by the middle of next month. It is rather late in the season to be in tents. We have a very handsome situation on Eleven Mile creek. The place is called after its owner, a Colonel Williams of New York. I hear he contemplated building his house next spring on the very ground on which we are building, and desired that not a piece of timber should be cut, as he wished it entirely shaded, but I can promise him that by that time there will not be a sapling standing within a mile of it. We marched from Black Rock to this place on the 11th inst. You have heard ere this of the duel that took place on the 12th between Generals Smyth and Porter, and the latter's statement of facts. General S. has left here on furlough. Col. Porter of the Light Artillery commands in his absence, and as we are eleven miles from the enemy everything is quiet.

(From advance sheets of the Records of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia.)

**Major-General Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe to Hon. Wm. D. Powell.**

**FORT GEORGE, 20th Dec., 1812.**

**MY DEAR FRIEND :—**

I have acted on your suggestion regarding the alleged combination, having written, or rather directed a letter to be written, to the Acting Attorney General to take the necessary steps, and desired him to show it to you that it may be ascertained that all is right and according to law, for I really have so much to do that I cannot do anything well.

I have answered the chairman's letter accompanying the plan, which cannot be too highly extolled.

I have sent a copy to Col. Talbot and an express is going to Amh[erstburg] by which I shall also send one, and more if I can. I presume that it is in print by this time. I put my name down for £200, Lt.-Col. Biishopp, £100—further I have not yet had a report.

The persons of the sect alluded to and who reside near this are not yet of the association, at least so says T. Dickson, whom I have put on enquiry. I have received several letters from Mrs. S., tell Mrs. P., and to one a postscript from Miss S. dated 3rd Dec.

I send to Mr. McMahon a form of prayer and thanksgiving I have received from the Lord Bishop of Quebec, which I am desirous of disseminating for the use of our churches in this Province.

Major Clerk goes to New York to act there in the Q. M. G. Dept. He is a worthy man and a pleasant one withal when known, and much esteemed in the Regt. I have cut a finger and can scarcely write as legibly as yourself.

Some of the enemy's troops are said to have been moved back to Batavia, and 8 or 10 to be buried daily at Buffalo. B[rigadier] G[eneral] Smyth is reported to have declared that he would be either in Canada or in Hell on Xmas day. He may be fortunate enough to escape both.

Adieu—with thanks for your friendly hints, the benefit of which I trust will never be withheld.

(From MS. in possession of George Murray Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

## Commanding Officers of Militia Regiments in Upper Canada in 1813.

1st Regiment, Glengarry—Lieut.-Col. McMillan.  
 2d Regiment, Glengarry—Lieut.-Col. Macdonell.  
 1st Regiment, Prescott—Lieut.-Col. Fortune.  
 1st Regiment, Grenville—Colonel Wm. Fraser.  
 2d Regiment, Grenville—Lieut.-Col. Burritt.  
 1st Regiment, Dundas—Lieut.-Col. Thomas Fraser.  
 1st Regiment, Leeds—Lieut.-Col. Sherwood.  
 2d Regiment, Leeds—Colonel Stone.  
 1st Regiment, Frontenac—Hon. Colonel Cartwright.  
 1st Regiment, Addington—Colonel Wm. Johnston.  
 1st Regiment, Prince Edward—Colonel Archibald McDonell.  
 1st Regiment, Lennox—Major Crawford.  
 1st Regiment, Hastings—Colonel Ferguson.  
 1st Regiment, Northumberland—Lieut.-Col. Peters.  
 1st Regiment, Durham—Lieut.-Col. Baldwin.  
 1st Regiment, York—Lieut.-Col. Graham.  
 2d Regiment, York—Lieut.-Col. Beaseley.  
 3d Regiment, York—Lieut.-Col. Chewett.  
 1st Regiment, Lincoln—Hon. Colonel Claus.  
 2d Regiment, Lincoln—Lieut.-Col. Clark.  
 3d Regiment, Lincoln—Lieut.-Col. Warren.  
 4th Regiment, Lincoln—Major Tenbrock.  
 5th Regiment, Lincoln—Lieut.-Col. Bradt.  
 1st Regiment, Norfolk—Lieut.-Col. Ryerson.  
 2d Regiment, Norfolk—Lieut.-Col. Nichol.  
 1st Regiment, Oxford—Lieut.-Col. Bostwick.  
 1st Regiment, Kent—Hon. Colonel Baby.  
 1st Regiment, Essex—Colonel Elliott.  
 2d Regiment, Essex—Lieut.-Col. Baptiste Baby.  
 1st Regiment, Middlesex—Colonel Talbot.

(Report of Loyal and Patriotic Society, pp. 50-1.)

### Notes on Upper Canada.

The most beautiful section of Upper Canada is the peninsula south of the river Severn, which empties into the bay of Gloucester in Huron lake, and of the river Trent, which empties into Ontario near Kingston. The province is denominated "Upper," because the Niagara and St. Lawrence runs N. and N. E., and Lake Erie, tho' but 34 miles distant, elevates its surface 250 feet above Lake Ontario.

The rivers of the peninsula are the Thames, Escartie and Grand, the former running southwest into Lake St. Clair, the latter southeast into Lake Erie. The Chippawa Creek empties into the Niagara about three miles above the falls; the Credit empties between the head of Lake Ontario and York, the Don and the Humber into Ontario near York. The Thames is navigable for vessels of seventy tons for nineteen miles from the mouth, and for vessels of any burden ten or twelve miles. Boat navigation is good to the Mills at Delaware. Of these rivers the Thames is the largest, tho' none of them very considerable.

Detroit (the strait) is fifty-seven chains wide at the Fort Detroit and is much narrower at Malden by occasion of an island opposite that fort. The channel here is within effective musket shot of the shore.

The Niagara at the garrison is wider than at Detroit—it is probably half a mile wide. At Black Rock a flat bottomed boat or scow crosses in seven minutes.

Mountains of any importance are not seen in the peninsula. An elevation which forms the Genesee Falls, the Ridge Road, Queenston Heights, and terminating a little to the west of the head of Ontario, about sixty-five miles from Niagara, is emphatically styled "the mountain." It presents from its brow the most extensive view of the plains at its foot and of Ontario, which approaches and recedes from one to seven miles from its base. From the summit of this mountain to Erie the country is level; the traveller meets with no hills from Niagara to Detroit, save the ravines here and there formed by streams and rivulets.

The New Englander travelling west takes leave of hills in the county of Onondaga in New York State and sees no more until Detroit is in his rear.

The principal roads are from Erie to Niagara, from Niagara to Detroit, and Dundas Street, which, commencing at the lower Fort St. Lawrence and running along Ontario by its head, joins the old Detroit road at Oxford on the Thames.

From Erie to the ferry opposite Black Rock is two miles, and from thence to Fort George, or Newark, is thirty-five miles. The road is perfectly level (excepting the easy descent at Queenston) and runs upon the bank of the river (excepting from the falls to Queenston) through a delightful cultivated country. Between Chippawa and Erie is a small creek crossed by a bridge.

The Chippawa is a small black stream coming from a level, fertile country to empty into the Niagara at the Village of Chippawa, three miles above the falls. Ten or twelve rods above the

bridge on the north bank is a blockhouse, manned in time of peace by a sergeant's guard.

The furs and merchandise which are brought from the Northwest drop down to some place within a few miles of Chippawa, whence they are carried to this spot and deposited. The stream of the Niagara below this creek is too rapid for navigating in safety. The Niagara here is two miles wide, yet there is a ferry, but the ferrymen cautiously ascend the stream to the point of Navy Island, half a mile above Chippawa, before they cross to Fort Schlosser. The Chippawa, though a considerable stream, cannot effect to mingle its dark waters with the pellucid current of the majestic Niagara for one mile and a half. It is confined to a narrow path along the shore and the line is as definite between the waters as between the land and water. The passage of this creek in a hostile manner, except on the ice, may be disputed. Nature opposes no other obstacle in a march to Fort George by this road.

Fort George, or Newark, is approached by three roads: one from Queenston; one by the lake from the creek, called the Twelve, (the number given to it by the surveyors;) and another by the middle road through the swamp from the Ten, (another creek, so called). Between Niagara and the head of Ontario are creeks called the 8, 10, 15, 16, 20, 30, 40 and 50. The 15, 16 and 20 form deep ravines.

No road leads directly from Erie to Detroit. One road turns west from the Falls thro' Beaver Dams and the Beech Woods; one from Queenston to the mills, and one from Niagara by the lake. The two last unite at the Twelve. The first joins them at the Twenty. At the Forty, 30 miles from Niagara and 20 from Queenston and the Falls, is a village, mills, &c. At the Fifty, 40 miles from Niagara, the road to York inclines to the right, and seven miles from thence crosses the beach which divides the head of Lake Ontario from Little Lake or Burlington Bay, then turns to the right for York, which is about 40 miles from the head of the lake and 180 from Kingston. The Detroit road continues on from the Fifty to Ancaster at the head of the lake, from thence it bears south of west to Grand River, crosses the Burford Plains (eleven miles wide,) and joining Dundas street or the Governor's Road, as it is called, touches the Thames at Oxford. Thence it pursues its course, crossing at Delaware and leads to its mouth, and so along the south side of Lake St. Clair to Detroit. The road is on the left bank of the Detroit level to Malden 13 miles.

Coot's Paradise, at the head of Lake Ontario is nearly midway between Kingston and the head of the St. Lawrence and Detroit, being 220 miles from Kingston and 203 from Detroit.

The distance from Niagara to this place is only 70 miles. From it Detroit bears S. W., Kingston N. E., and Niagara E. S. E.

From the falls of Niagara to Detroit is 204 miles. It is the same from Niagara Garrison. From Buffalo to Detroit on the south or American side of Erie, 340 miles is the shortest reputed distance. On the north or British side of Erie it is 277 miles.

From the capital in Albany to Niagara, by Tonewanta swamp, is  $285\frac{1}{2}$  miles. The distance is 10 miles less by the Great Western turnpike to Cherry Valley, and thence by turnpike to Manlius Square, where it unites with the Genesee turnpike. This is the route of the military express from Albany to Niagara, which proceeds at a rate of not less than eight miles and not exceeding ten the hour. From Albany to Queenston by Cherry Valley and Tonewanta swamp is 292 miles. Of this distance 208 (to Canandaigua) miles are turnpike. The remainder, save ten or twelve miles, is an excellent road. Most of the road from Niagara to Detroit is also excellent. The shortest practicable road from the Capitol at Albany to Detroit is therefore  $530\frac{1}{2}$  miles; *via* Buffalo, Presque Isle, Scioto, Sandusky, Miami, &c., it amounts to 638. If you go to Buffalo and then through the Province you will add 23 miles to the distance before noted.

The military road from Malden to Niagara would be to retrace the steps of General Brock, to wit, by water from Malden to Long Point, thence across the plains 20 miles to the village of the Six Nations on Grand River, here is a bridge 3 miles above the village or the river is fordable; thence it is 28 miles to the head of Ontario, 6 miles of which are woods and bad travelling, the remainder plains.

In respect to population the settlements are from Erie to Fort George on the Niagara, and extending up the Chippawa and west of the falls through the Beaver Dams to the head of Lake Ontario. The people are chiefly from Pennsylvania and New Jersey, a considerable portion from New York and some from Scotland and England. A portion of these inhabitants went from the United States during the revolution, but by far the greater number since that period. These compose the Canadian Militia, who distinguished themselves at Detroit and Queenston as mentioned in General Prevost's general order.

From York, on the bay of Toronto, the settlements extend along the waters to Lower Canada, and from two to twenty back. From Kingston to York about two-thirds of the inhabitants are Americans.

The settlement on Grand River, which empties into Erie, are all by Americans, mostly from Pennsylvania and New Jersey, some from New England and York.



The left bank of Detroit is settled by French Canadians.

No census has been taken in Upper Canada. On the authority of Heriot's Travels it has been estimated at 80,000 in 1806. I think that exceeds the real number in 1812. There were on the 20th of July, 1812, on duty in Upper Canada one-third of all the militia between the ages of sixteen and sixty, to wit at Oswegatchie 700, at Kingston 500, York 450, Niagara 750, and at Malden about 300, making in the whole 2,700. Thus there are in the Province 7,100 militiamen or persons fit for militia duty, between the ages of 16 and 60. From this the number of inhabitants may be estimated. Suppose one-seventh within those ages be excused from duty, or 1,000, this makes 8,100. Then add an equal number for the males under sixteen and above sixty, equal to 16,200. Add afterwards an equal number for the females and you will have a grand aggregate of 32,400 for the whole white population. I am confident that the free white inhabitants, exclusive of the army, cannot exceed 50,000.

On the 20th of July there were at Niagara 500 regulars and no more, and at York 50 invalids, and at Malden 180. In time of peace there are about 300 men at Fort George, 12 at Chippawa, 20 at Erie and 100 at Malden, or about a battalion in all.

The militia are all well armed with new muskets and have plenty of the munitions of war. The Indians within the Peninsula cannot muster more than 600 warriors. I have seen the forces of the Six Nations reviewed by Col. Brandt at their annual parade on the 1st day of May, and since that period they have not increased. The Mohawks residing at Grand River are the most warlike. They are at present chiefly directed by Norton, a native white man of the lower province, who is a tolerable English scholar and well versed in the English language. After having been patronised by the famous Brandt, he was adopted and made a chief.

The climate of the Peninsula, particularly in the vicinity of the lakes, is as mild as the vicinity of New York and Philadelphia. There is little snow and the air is salubrious. Though the country is very level there is little stagnant water. The waters of the lake and great river are quite pellucid. The lesser streams are dark, though the waters are healthy, and all abound with a great variety of fish. Pears, peaches and the delicious melon are tolerated by the climate somewhat above 100 miles west of Albany, and acquire more and more flavor by soil and climate westward to Detroit. The left bank of the Niagara is pretty well cultivated, and the soil, though less fertile than the interior, yields corn and rye and from 18 to 24 bushels of wheat an acre. Beaver Dams, a few miles west from the Falls, is better cultivated by farmers from New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and may be known by clover fields, high fences and good

barns of stone when the materials can be had. Here and throughout the Peninsula bees succeed surprisingly.

The substratum of the plains is limestone, and gypsum, or plaster of paris, is found there.

Besides fruit and wheat Upper Canada furnishes to the British great stores of provisions for Quebec, Halifax and the West Indies, and the greatest possible encouragement is held out for raising hemp for their navy. Great stress is also laid upon the Canadians as observers upon the United States.

(From the *National Intelligencer* of Washington, D. C., January, 1813, probably based on a Memoir by a Dr. Tiffany, a former resident of the Province, forwarded to President Madison by Senator Mitchell of New York.)

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### **Militia General Orders.**

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
FORT GEORGE, 1st January, 1813.

It having become necessary that there be more frequent returns made by the several regiments of militia within this Province than are by law required,

His Honor Major-General Sheaffe is pleased to direct that during the present exigency there shall be a quarterly return of each regiment, viz.: On the 24th December, 24th March, 24th June and 24th September.

Officers commanding will accordingly transmit to the Adjutant-General's office, with as little delay as possible, a return of their respective regiments or corps, which shall be taken as for 24th December last. They will be careful to insert the rank and names of all their commissioned officers according to their seniority.

By order,

ÆNEAS SHAW,  
Adjutant-General Militia.

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### **Lieut.-Colonel Myers to Colonel Talbot.**

FORT GEORGE, January 2d, 1813.

SIR,—It having been determined to build for His Majesty's service on Lake Erie a vessel of war to carry eighteen guns, as also several gunboats, and understanding that in your vicinity there may be procured some artificers who could be usefully employed upon those works, I have to request that you will be pleased to exert your influence to obtain as considerable a portion as may be in your power of the description as in the margin, (ship-carpenters, boat-builders, joiners, blacksmiths,) in order that they may be for-

warded to Amherstburg. You will please to cause it to be explained to such persons as are willing to be thus employed, that they will receive the same pay, &c., as was given to the several classes of those who were employed in building the *Lady Prevost*, or at the rates given to those now employed in similar work at York and Kingston. On this subject I have written for information, and when received I will forward it to the Deputy-Assistant Quarter-master-General at Amherstburg. The artificers must carry with them, as far as possible, tools.

As it is essential that the utmost despatch should be used in forwarding such artificers as can be procured to Amherstburg, and as they will proceed on the King's service it will be requisite that the magistrates should give the necessary authority for the impressment of sleighs for their conveyance, and it would be very material in forwarding this measure if an intelligent militia officer can be directed to take a general charge of the artificers on their way up, for the purpose of assisting in procuring the necessary carriage for them and defraying the expense. For this purpose he will be furnished with a sum of money adequate to the probable amount, and for which he would finally account with the assistant commissary at Amherstburg on his arrival, to whom instructions on the subject will be transmitted.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

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### **Address to the York Militia.**

**VOLUNTEERS, MEN OF THE FLANK COMPANIES AND EMBODIED MILITIA :**

Dr. Strachan and myself have obtained permission from your officers to address you on a subject of the highest interest to the militia of the Province.

When we were invaded by an army of banditti, whose sole object was cowardly plunder, the gallant example of the York volunteers enabled General Brock to save the Province and capture General Hull and his whole army.

The good effects of that example have been since felt throughout the militia, which have never in any instance met the enemy but to capture or repulse them.

The enthusiasm produced by this gallant conduct of the militia has warmed every heart. Old and young men and women throughout the Province are all desirous to certify their gratitude. A young lady of this place proposed a subscription to afford relief to the distressed families of the militia on duty.

The happy thought was instantly pursued with eagerness. One worthy minister from the pulpit invited a meeting for that purpose. Among less than twenty persons who attended more than fifteen hundred dollars were subscribed to be yearly. More is daily added.

The president, as soon as he heard of it, gave eight hundred dollars, and Colonel Bisshopp, inspector of militia, four hundred dollars. It is supposed that every one not under arms will give a 10th to a 20th of their income. Your officers here desired to contribute one day's pay per month to this fund, from which they will derive no benefit, as it is confined to the relief of families of non-commissioned officers and privates. It has been considered that the desire of the York militia to set the example and take a lead in everything honorable entitles them to be received, as well as their officers, to contribute a day's pay per month to this fund for the relief of their families. We will then form the Loyal and Patriotic Society, to accept of this contribution which, we have no doubt, will be unanimous. It is usual, on such applications to bodies of men to take the assent of the majority as binding upon all, but we are jealous of receiving an unwilling mite. Therefore, if there is a man among you who is unwilling to give this small portion of his pay for the relief of his neighbours we beg that he will give us his name that it may be marked on the pay list.

(From MS. in Hon. Wm. D. Powell's handwriting, in possession of G. M. Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

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**Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe to Hon. Wm. D. Powell.**

FORT GEORGE, 6th January, 1813.

MY DEAR FRIEND :—

I hoped to have had some printed copies of the resolutions of the L[oyal] and P[atritic] Society to distribute. We have no press at work here. There is a demand for them; they should be sent in all directions.

After the arrival of the six aliens from York, a fruitless attempt was made to have a communication with the other side to know if they would be permitted to land, and it was afterwards decided that it under the present circumstances would be highly impolitic to allow the aliens to go over. I have therefore ordered the passports to be suspended and for passes to be granted for residing without molestation during good behavior, in places named by themselves, where they have usually lived and distant from the line, to remain until called. A great number came before the board

here. Some of those from York are desirous of returning, which will be permitted.

Be good enough to communicate the foregoing to the members of the York board.

Thank the Chief Justice for his letter. I have hardly time to add that I am always, with affectionate devotion to you and yours,

Your faithful friend,

R. H. SHEAFFE.

(From MS. in possession of George Murray Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

**Major Thomas Evans to Hon. Wm. D. Powell.**

Private.

FORT GEORGE, 6th January, 1813.

MY DEAR SIR:

I write a line, if only to indulge my inclination of wishing *you* all very many happy returns of the New Year.

By a flag which crossed on Monday from the opposite side we learn that the redoubtable General Smyth is now defending himself at Washington; Porter bellowing in Congress. A Col. Porter now commands the force at Black Rock, where it appears Commodore Chauncey is sojourning. A vote in Congress of 25,000 additional regulars. The pay of the American army considerably increased. Each maritime state building a ship of war, now stated to be upon the stocks. Think you that England after all this will believe in the existence of war?

The *Acasta*, said to have been taken, is not, and a faint hope exists that one or more of their vessels have fallen into our hands. No news thro' the States from either Russia or the Peninsula, a circumstance in itself ominous of the most favorable events.

My letters from below mention that had Dearborn advanced three miles further with his 8,000 men not a soul of them would have escaped captivity, 15,000 of our people being ready to surround them. A packet which sailed from England latter end of August anticipated the September mail. The October was expected to arrive daily at Montreal, means having been taken to ensure its speedy arrival overland from Halifax.

We are going on tolerably, tho' since the return of the militia to their homes the duties have fallen heavily on the line in spite of the arrangements and precautions taken to ease them. I pity much the General's situation with regard to the inefficient state of the Militia, the Barrack Department, and, I may add, even the Commissariat. These certainly are not the results of any fault in General S[heaffe], tho' I plainly see he will have to bear the blame.

I would feel sorry to attach blame to our late lamented commander, whose high personal merits stood recorded in almost every act of his valuable life, but in justice to the living I own that the two former of these departments have from the commencement of the war been miserably defective, without any system or arrangement whatever, and I hesitate not to declare that the persons holding the ostensible positions never have been nor are they now possessed of the necessary information or energy to render them competent to a successful and satisfactory discharge of their several duties. These are not new or hasty observations, but such as have been intimated to poor General B[rock] and which, as Myers can vouch, now stands registered by me as not having been attended to. Indeed, my d[ear] Sir, it is a melancholy truth that everything that had for its object arrangement and method was obliged to be done by stealth. Poor General Brock's high spirit would never descend to particulars, trifles I may say in the abstract, but ultimately essentials. How much I may with truth say is our success indebted to the foresight, arrangements and decision of poor Myers. He is not a man of words but acting, and too modest to make known his own deserts. Never shall I forget his toils, prompted by his devotion for the service, in arranging and equipping the force and providing shipping boats, &c., for their conveyance to Amherstburg, thereby ensuring the success of our enterprise, which, from the necessity of leaving him here, considered a more responsible trust, his reputation had nigh suffered in proportion as others of very inferior professional abilities has been enhanced.

Myers is now enabled to go about, and is already active in his attention to his duties.

Captain Hall arrived last evening from Amherstburg. Nothing new except a report that Tecumseth had cut off one of the enemy's parties, but few escaping.

P. S.—You would have heard that Myers does not leave this line for the present.

(MS. in possession of G. M. Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

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**Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe, to —**

FORT GEORGE, 7th January, 1813.

I had the pleasure of receiving yours of the 3d yesterday, a few hours after the departure of Captain Hall. Your approbation of the letter gratified me much. I hope there will be discretion enough to set the proper value on the communication which called for it. I have consulted Sir G[eorge] about the formation of a new

corps in the Province. I have taken steps for his being furnished with the best information that can be procured of Sackett's Harbour, its approaches, defences, number of troops, seamen, &c., &c., and of Gravelly Point, too, which is perhaps an obstacle to be removed, and is so placed as to be much in the way of a surprise. I have also reminded H[is] E[xc]ellency of the necessity of reinforcements to resist the probably augmented force of the enemy and to aid in protecting our dockyards against the early attempt, which no doubt will be made, to defeat our efforts for securing a naval ascendancy. I have besides suggested that a system may be necessary for transferring the charges for disbursements on account of the militia, &c., from the Commissariat to the Province by its Receiver General, in order to simplify and facilitate the settlement of the public accounts. I have given a hint, too, of the probable utility of occupying N[ew] Castle as a military post to secure to ourselves the benefit of its harbour and to protect its vicinity from depredations, of all of which I hope you will approve.

I have to despatch two officers to Amherstburg in a day or two. (I hope the printed resolutions will come first.) I shall then probably go to Fort Erie and afterwards set off for York, of which, too, I am glad to find you approve.

(From MS. in possession of George Murray Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

Major J. B. Glegg, to—

Confidential.

FORT GEORGE, 10th January, 1813.

MY DEAR SIR :—

The very inclement state of the weather during the last seven days having nearly suspended all communication between our respective posts must plead my excuse for so tardy an acknowledgment of your very obliging communication of the 2d inst. Well aware that my *unavoidably enigmatical* style in imparting what seemed to me (for obvious reasons) essential for your information, and which cost me so much to impart, I felt anxious to ascertain the effect of my imperfect communication, and was much relieved on receiving an assurance that my motives were duly appreciated. It is quite impossible, my dear Sir, to give you an adequate idea of my feelings since my return to this post. The experience of each day has forced on my mind comparisons and contrasts which have made me most sincerely regret the necessity for remaining in this Province.

Had it not been for your mention of my high-principled and gallant friend, Lieut.-Col. Myers, I should not perhaps have again entered upon a subject that has already occasioned me such sincere



regret until the anxiously looked-for intelligence from Quebec had arrived, but finding that Captain Gray and others have not only basely calumniated the character of M[ajor]-G[eneral] Sheaffe but have more than insinuated an inclination on the part of Lieut.-Col. Myers so prejudiced and so much at variance with the well-known principles of that officer that I should consider myself guilty of the most palpable act of injustice were I to remain silent. So far, my dear Sir, was my very much valued friend, Lieut.-Colonel Myers, from authorising such a thought of insubordination as that alluded to in your letter, that upon being apprised of the discussions and measures which were in contemplation in certain societies subsequent to the events of the 28th ulto. he immediately warned the parties of the dangerous tendencies of their proceedings, and declared his intention, (which was instantly realized,) of communicating the whole business to Major-G[eneral] S[heaffe], and of whose subsequent decisions on the subject I have reason to believe you are already fully informed. I find that Captain Gray's progress from here to Kingston has been marked with the most persecuting calumny that ever proceeded from the mouth of man.

Arriving at Kingston he has given full scope to his malignant disposition, and has rendered my friend Vincent the most miserable of beings. I this morning received a long confidential letter by express, truly descriptive of the agonized state of his mind. He relates what has reached his knowledge thro' Captain Gray, and he expresses much disappointment in having been apprised of such interesting information by so accidental a channel. Col. Vincent goes so far as to say that if he finds from my communication, (which he says may be forwarded by express,) that the honour or security of this Province are in danger of being compromised he will risk everything and fly to our assistance. I mention his own words to give you an idea of the impression that has been produced by a base and dangerous calumniator. I am at the same time well aware that much dissatisfaction has been created in the minds of all ranks of the militia from unavoidable privations and other causes. The lack in efficiency of the majority of the militia officers and the staff belonging to the establishment has operated strongly in paralysing the efforts of that ever willing body. The want of energy and improvidence of the head of our commissariat has been a subject of general complaint and animadversion. Not being in any ostensible situation I cannot venture to give an opinion on the accuracy of the clamor which now exists on the subject; the whole odium, however, of this complaint has alighted on the head of M[ajor] G[eneral] Sheaffe, and perhaps it is natural that it should so happen, for it is obvious that unless a state of general respon-

sibility exists somewhere the grand machine, either military or civil, cannot long be kept in successful progress, and if the head does not occasionally observe the particular parts the whole cannot be properly conducted. I am forced to confess that our prospects are far, very far, from flattering. A general inactivity and criminal indifference pervades our military staff, and a parsimonious and ill-timed economy characterizes the self-sufficient head of the commissariat, apparently only anxious to stand well in the opinion of some stripling Lord of the Treasury for his saving knowledge, he has completely succeeded in drawing upon himself the odium and indignation of all the gentlemen who were formerly in the habit of furnishing supplies for the use of the King's service. There is at this moment no fuel in the wood yard; the posts and guards making daily complaints for want of firewood, and the horses of the car brigade are actually perishing, owing to a want of forage. Unless some great and immediate change of system be effected I feel no difficulty in anticipating a crisis which my imagination reluctantly refers to. I am not aware that we are likely to witness the much wished for change, and the aid held out from below is not of a nature to afford any encouragement to the drooping spirits of our once high-spirited militia.

Viewing all sides of the picture, I am free to confess that there appears no gleam of consolation to an interested mind. The feelings of a soldier are widely different from those of a citizen, and are often merely local or transitory. Yours, my dear Sir, and those of many others in this Province are, I am well aware, of a different composition. It may be presumptuous in me offering an opinion, but the confidence imposed by your flattering friendship tempts me to suggest for your consideration the propriety of immediately ascertaining the real intentions of the Commander of the Forces respecting this Province. Your danger, in my humble opinion, is much too imminent to be much longer trifled with, or be dismissed by a bare hope of reinforcements being sent up from the Lower Province. So impressed am I at this moment with the urgency of our actual situation, and so much do I consider that your future salvation depends upon your *own exertions*, that I humbly conceive it will be an act of suicide if you much longer delay asking for, and indeed requiring, some explanatory information on this highly interesting subject.

I cannot anticipate any security from an increase of our marine, however extended, unless *timely* reinforcements of experienced troops be sent up.

I do not find that there is any intention of affording us the necessary relief which must, I should imagine, be owing to a want

of proper application or to a total or wilful ignorance of our situation. Colonel Vincent informs me that he has received orders to send up *one* company of the 49th. If the subject were not too serious in its consequences one might be justified in laughing at the ignorance and folly of such conduct.

I have long since tired your sight and patience with my voluminous and ill-digested sentiments. They are offered with all deference and confidence to your superior discernment, and I feel sensible you will do me justice in considering them perfectly confidential and proceeding from the most disinterested and honorable motives.

I would not unwillingly volunteer my services to proceed immediately to the Lower Province and submit the actual state, either verbally or in a written statement, to His Excellency's consideration, but I am not insensible of the prejudice that might arise from so important a mission being entrusted to feeble hands, and to an officer of such subordinate rank. If, however, such a measure could receive the smallest countenance of the Commander of the Forces, I would risk any consideration and should not despair, from a knowledge of his opinion already formed in my favor, of rendering some service to this cruelly neglected Province. I was very happy in hearing that the calumny that had been so industriously [circulated] against the Lecturers in Yonge street was not sustained. In offering my tribute to your noble efforts to sustain the spirit of the militia and to excite new efforts in the defence of the country, I was not aware of the conditions of your Patriotic Institution. Being now instructed on this head, I most willingly avail myself of your suggestion, and shall be much flattered by being admitted to the room of a sitting in that Society. You will therefore do me the favor of putting down my name on the list of subscribers at the rate of twenty pounds per annum, for which I will give an order on Montreal at a moment's warning.

I hear that M[ajor]-G[eneral] S[heaffe] intends paying York a visit in the course of a few days, but I should imagine this will very much depend upon the expected communication from below, and the appearances that may be exhibited along the enemy's frontier when the ice affords them facility for again treading upon this land of promise.

I am sorry to conclude by informing you that our friend, M[ajor]-G[eneral] S[heaffe], is much changed of late. There appears at times an irresistible melancholy on his mind, which is very distressing. I have reason for knowing that his *expectations* from below are by no means flattering. He hinted to me as much yesterday, when privately alluding to passing events. He is well

acquainted with my zeal and friendship, which I hope neither time nor circumstances will ever diminish. I am sometimes vain enough to think that had he condescended to occasionally give me credit for my knowledge of men and manners in this Province he might have escaped some portion of mortification.

I beg to be most kindly remembered to all under your roof, and, believe me, my dear Sir, yours most faithfully,

J. B. GLEGG.

(From MS. in possession of George Murray Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

### **Notes on the Conduct of Major-General R. H. Sheaffe and Major-General Vincent.**

In 1812, Major-General Sheaffe, having succeeded to the military and civil command in the Province of Upper Canada, and having on the day of the disastrous fall of Major-General Brock on the Heights of Queenston rallied the troops and captured the entire invading army of the enemy, became from that moment the object of envy and jealousy. This gentlemen had the misfortune to be born in New England, and although he had been in the service from ten years of age in the navy as a midshipman, and had received his military education in England at Lock's Academy, where he was contemporary with Sir George Prevost, then his Commander-in-Chief in Canada, was obnoxious to many around him on account of his birth, as inevitably tending to weaken his exertions against the enemy.

This jealousy had long prevailed among the vulgar, and had on his accession to the command extended to other characters, and in a short time was fomenting in the minds of all ranks, not excepted the military.

The occasion which first afforded an opportunity for open display of this spirit was on the occasion of a threatened invasion from Buffalo and Black Rock, when the opposite post of Fort Erie was protected only by a small force of regular troops and militia.

This force was under the command of a young officer, Lieut.-Col. Bisshopp, who upon the approaching crisis pressed for some reinforcement.

General Sheaffe was then at the Chippawa with all the force he could command, barely adequate to check the invading force, which, he was well aware, was destined to attack him, and would not land higher up unless to destroy the bridges, so as to retard the junction of the two divisions from Fort Erie and Chippawa.

Under such circumstances General Sheaffe addressed the following letter to Colonel Bisshopp :

CHIPPAWA, Nov. 30th, 1812.

SIR,—Reinforcements cannot be spared to you ; the force here is scarcely sufficient to defend this post, and the movements of the enemy may be directed against this place. You do not mention number of militia that has left you, but if the display of force on the enemy's side has had the effect of intimidating the militia it adds a strong motive to that which may have before existed for relinquishing your position. Your regular force, however, to be depended upon is too small to resist the force that the enemy appears to be able to direct against you. It ought not to be exposed incessantly ; therefore immediately consult the field officers of the line and the militia on the best measures best adapted for a retreat if your force be inadequate to repulse the enemy, and keeping open the communication, which appears to be the case ; besides, there are some miles of the route between us on which the enemy may establish himself in force. If the motives for a retreat appear to your field-officers of the line and militia sufficiently strong to justify it—which you might have gathered from what I wrote before—if retreat be decided upon, which I suppose will be the case, let it be done with as much rapidity as may be consistent with good order and as quietly as possible, leaving as little as possible to be of use to the enemy that is of any importance, but avoiding what may apprise him of your design or your movement.

I have, &c.,

Lieut.-Col. Bisshopp,  
Com'g Fort Erie.

R. H. S.  
Major General.

FORT ERIE, Nov. 30th, 1812.

SIR,—Lieut.-Col. Bisshopp has this evening laid before us your letter of this date.

It is our unanimous opinion that the disposition of the forces under his command is both able and judicious, and the best that could be made. We do not, under existing circumstances, consider retreat at all necessary, nor do we consider it as a measure which ought to be looked forward to. We think that our position may be defended and that a small reinforcement would enable us to gain a decided advantage over any force the enemy has in its power to bring against us. We are further of opinion that the probabilities are exceedingly against the enemy's being able to establish himself between this and Chippawa, and that even in such an event we

have it in our power to open and preserve a communication with the main body of the army.

(Signed)

ORMSBY, CHAMBERS, GIVINS,  
CLARK, NICHOL, HATT.

This document is worthy consideration. General Sheaffe's letter did not call for it, and it would have been as well for Col. Bisshopp to have taken the opinion of his field officers without producing it, but in such case the presumed opening would not have been afforded to these heroes so directly to mark their contempt for the Commanding General. The letter was addressed to Col. Bisshopp, not to his field officers; and their report should have been to him and not to the General, even if had contained nothing insolent or offensive, but then Col. Bisshopp could not have circulated [it] through the country but must have confined his answer to the discretion of the Major-General, whereas this offensive document was circulated amongst the regulars and militia, and when coupled with a report that the General had verbally suggested that it might be proper to give up Fort Erie as a sop to the Americans, who were so tired of the war that they only wanted the report of a single success to withdraw. This verbal suggestion he obviously said in joke, and [tho' not] correct, coupled with the written sanction to abandon the position was circulated as the sentiments of a traitor, and gave excuse for meetings and combinations against the Commanding General, in which some of the militia officers took part. At one of these meetings an officer of the Quartermaster-General's Department, supposed to be on a secret mission from headquarters, was so impressed with what he heard that on his return to headquarters he did not hesitate to declare that General Sheaffe must be removed from the command the instant he (Capt. Gray) arrived at Quebec.

This declaration was made at the table of an ancient friend of General Sheaffe, to whom it was instantly communicated, and at the same time that friend expressed to an officer of the General's staff his astonishment that himself and another, high on the staff of the army, had suffered their commanding officer to remain ignorant of what was passing around him, and which it was essential to his honour that he should know.

General Sheaffe, so apprised by his friend at York of the calumnies circulated by Captain Gray of the Q. M. General's Dept., who reported him to be the confidential emissary of the Commander of the Forces, lost no time to transmit to headquarters the communication he had received, but it does not appear that he asked or received any assistance from those about him to repel or punish the slander, but the atrocious calumny, officially reported to the Com-

mander-in-Chief, was shortly afterwards strongly and officially contradicted by the Chief of the Department to which Capt. Gray belonged. This assurance was given by that chief to General Sheaffe's York friend in exculpation of himself as jointly censured with another officer of the staff for cruel indifference on this occasion.

When in progress to headquarters Capt. Gray repeated his budget of slander to Colonel Vincent of the Major-General's Regiment, second in command and his bosom friend, then at Kingston, three hundred miles from the provincial headquarters. That gallant officer was so shocked at the incredible reports intimated from a confidential officer of the staff that he was staggered and awaited only the confirmation by Major Glegg, then personally attached to the Major-General, to fly at any risque to save the Province and the honour of the army.

Sixteen years after these occurrences, when the subject was before the Major, (now Lieut.) General and his York friend, the latter, upon listening to the complaining of his friend that he was neglected, chanced to say with too much warmth that the General had never known the extent of the calumny that had prevailed against him during his command, and an observation by the General seeming to doubt that extent was replied to by a declaration that the nearest to him in friendship and command had been so staggered as to only await confirmation from Major Glegg to supersede him (the General) in his civil and military commands, and his assertion being treated with contempt as an invention, the friend offered to convince him of the truth in the handwriting of General Vincent. This was an error—his information was from a transcript from the handwriting of that of Major Glegg. That person had been in the habit of correspondence with the York friend of Major-General Sheaffe, by whose desire whatever passing at headquarters, supposed to be interesting, was through this channel communicated. On occasion of the calumnies circulated by Capt. Gray, the friend at York had written to Major Glegg rather reproachfully that such things were not made known at once by himself or Colonel Myers, (second in command,) to the party so deeply interested. The reply of Major Glegg was marked "confidential" and did in fact contain matter of a nature not to be disclosed, according to my construction of it, and was not referred to until 1828, on the occasion stated above.

I consider it a duty to myself to put General Sheaffe in possession of the whole correspondence, or rather communication from Major Glegg, that he may decide how far I was justified in the fact that Major-General Vincent was so affected by the calumny as to



think the safety of the Province and honour of the army in danger and to fly himself from his post to their rescue.

(From MS. in handwriting of Hon. Wm. D. Powell in possession of G. M. Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

**Colonel Myers to Brigadier-General Procter.**

FORT GEORGE, January 10, 1813.

SIR,—A long letter which I addressed to you on our marine affairs for Lake Erie will, I hope, have reached you safely. As it becomes a matter of the greatest moment to gain as accurate information as possible of the preparations of the enemy as to building armed vessels and boats, I request you will be pleased to select some intelligent inhabitant in your vicinity who would undertake to proceed down the border of Lake Erie as far as in his power towards Buffalo, for the purpose of obtaining the information so essential to our plans. It would be his object to examine at all the rivers and creeks what is going forward. It would require the greatest caution and circumspection as well as secrecy in the person chosen for this service. He should be one whose habits or profession would justify his assuming the character of a person travelling on some matters of business, and to insure his attention to the objects on which he is sent it will be advisable to agree with him for a sum to be paid him commensurate with the distance he may travel and the information he may obtain. You will be pleased to communicate to me for the information of Major-General Sheaffe the result of the measures proposed.

(Niles's Weekly Register, Baltimore, January 15, 1814, Vol. V., p. 326. Alleged to have been captured in General Procter's baggage on 5th October, 1813.)

**From the Buffalo Gazette, 12th January, 1813**

PROTECTION.

Arrangements are, we understand, in great forwardness for completely guarding the coast since the lake has closed. During the last week several families have removed from the country; we think their fears are groundless. We have no doubt but that we shall be effectually guarded. However, it would not be inconsistent with the principles of self preservation that every citizen have his arms in good order, with a supply of ammunition.

It is rumored that General Boyd has been assigned to the command on this frontier and may be expected on here very shortly. General Boyd is a skilful warrior and a brave man; his valor and skill have been tested in battle. We hope the rumor may prove true. We believe, *even now*, he would receive the confidence of the soldiery.

*Cold Friday.*—On Friday last Fahrenheit's thermometer stood at 12 degrees below cypher—the same degree of cold as on the coldest day of last season. The coldest day of last winter was the second of March.

The lake between Sturgeon and Abino points is, we believe, completely and effectively closed. Between Buffalo Creek and Fort Erie, owing to the rapidity of the current, there are several place not yet closed.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

**From the New York Statesman, February 2nd, 1813.**

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at Buffalo, January 14th, 1813:—

The report, as I already mentioned, of General Boyd being about to assume the command of the Niagara frontier has given lively hopes to the army. He, it is expected, will correct abuses and relieve them from the odious conduct of a demi-brute or whimsical savage, who ought to be placed in a museum or sent into the forest with the orang outang.

The lakes being frozen over, our guards are extended up and down the beach, but I do not expect a visit from the British. They will remain on the defensive.

*Balt. Whig.*

(New York Society Library.)

**Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.**

(No. 33.)

QUEBEC, 15th January, 1813.

MY LORD:—

I have the honour to acquaint Your Lordship that I opened the Provincial Parliament on the 29th of December, and delivered to them the speech a copy of which is herewith transmitted.

I have since received from the Legislative Council and House of Assembly the addresses, copies of which are also transmitted.

Nothing particular has occurred upon our frontiers since the retreat of the enemy and their going into winter quarters, which I had the honour of communicating to Your Lordship in my despatch, No. 24, of the 28th of November last.

My attention has since that time been principally called to the reinforcing, as far as my limited means would permit, of the Upper Province, and forwarding thither the supplies necessary for the building and equipment of the vessels to be added to the marine in that Province.

A considerable proportion of the stores, &c., have already arrived there in safety, and such others as I have it in my power to

afford are on their way and will shortly be transported thither. But I cannot too strongly call Your Lordship's attention to the necessity of complying as speedily as possible with the different requisitions I have made on this subject in my former letters.

I have been under the necessity of providing clothing for the embodied militia both of this and the Upper Province, the whole of which is in a great state of forwardness, and though not altogether of the description I could wish will answer the purpose of putting the militia in comfortable clothing until I can receive the supplies for which I have already written Your Lordship.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 121, p. 2.)

**Captain A. Gray to Colonel John Vincent.**

POINT FREDERICK, 16th January, 1813.

SIR,—I beg leave to acquaint you that I have this day inspected the two ships of war laying in this harbor, and have the honor of reporting for your information the state of those vessels.

I commenced my inspection with the *Royal George* by first ordering the crew to be turned up and mustered, which consisted as follows:

|                                                          | No. |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Ship's company, including officers.....                  | 80  |
| Detachment of Newfoundland Regt., acting as marines..... | 22  |
| Total.....                                               | 102 |

Of the above number there were 23 of the seamen sick, reducing the total effective strength to 79.

The general appearance of the men bespeak the greatest want of attention to cleanliness and good order. After the inspection of the ship's company I directed them to be ordered to their quarters, and the shots drawn and the cartridges fired off to scale the guns. This operation occupied 50 minutes. Such was the state of the guns. The greater part of them missed fire repeatedly in consequence of the vents being choked up, and would not go off till they were cleaned out with pricking needles and fresh primed.

I next examined the state of the vessel as to cleanliness and interior economy, and found her everywhere in the most filthy condition.

I next proceeded to inspect the *Moira*, and found her

|                                                        | No. |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Ship's company, including officers.....                | 35  |
| Detachment of the Newfoundland, acting as marines..... | 16  |
| Total.....                                             | 51  |

Of the above number there were six sick, reducing the total effective strength to 45.

The men, guns and state of the vessel very much resembled the *Royal George*, or rather, the state of the *Moir* was *bad* and that of the *Royal George* *worse*.

As I have reason to believe that a *radical reform* in the Provincial Marine will soon take place, I do not conceive it necessary to recommend any partial changes, as I have reason to believe no material benefit would result to the service from such a measure. This statement will, however, show the absolute necessity there is of making suitable provision for the protection of these depots until they are in a condition to defend themselves.

(Canadian Archives, C. 729, pp. 28-9.)

**Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.**

(No. 35.)

QUEBEC, 16th January, 1813.

MY LORD:—

I do myself the honour to report to Your Lordship that in consequence of the enemy collected on the frontier of the Canadas having shewn a disposition to carry on a winter campaign, I have thought it prudent to afford some additional reinforcements to the Upper Province and to strengthen considerably the line of communication between Montreal and Kingston.

These movements have induced me to furnish Lieut.-General Sir J. Sherbrooke, commanding in Nova Scotia, with conditional instructions to direct the march of the detachments of Royal Artillery and the proportion of the 104th Regiment now in New Brunswick overland immediately to Quebec, and to replace the men to be withdrawn from that district by a sufficient detachment of troops from Halifax.

Which arrangements, under the present circumstances of the country, I hope will meet the approbation of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 121, p. 19.)

**Militia General Order.**

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
FORT GEORGE, 18th January, 1813.

His Honor Major-General Sheaffe is pleased to direct that the flank companies which may be on duty on this frontier be, until

further orders, relieved on the 25th day of each month, and not as directed by the General Order of the 14th Dec'r last.

By order,

ÆNEAS SHAW,

Adjt.-General Militia.

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**Militia General Orders.**

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
FORT GEORGE, 18th January, 1813.

Thomas McCormick, Esq., paymaster of militia, having signified a desire to relinquish that situation, the duties of which are now much diminished, John Symington, Esq., will, until further orders, muster such of the Militia as may be stationed from Fort George to Chippawa, and Samuel Street, Esq., those from Chippawa, inclusive, to Point Abino.

By order,

ÆNEAS SHAW,

Adjt.-General Militia.

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**Captain A. Gray to Sir George Prevost.**

KINGSTON, 19th January, 1813.

SIR,—I beg leave to submit to Your Excellency's consideration what appears to me the most practicable means of effecting a junction with our naval force at York, and at the same time to state what may be required from below to enable me to carry into effect this object as soon as the navigation is open.

I find from Colonel Bruyeres that there is no ordnance at Quebec adapted to these vessels. But he is of opinion that as many long 12-pounders may be collected as would enable us to arm the new ship building here. If we can arm this ship, alter the *Moir* so as to render that ship efficient, and complete the crews and new officer the whole of the ships there is every prospect of our being enabled to contest the point with the enemy; at all events we shall, by taking advantage of a fair wind, be enabled to force our way to York. There are three or four merchant craft here that may be armed for the occasion and afterwards returned to their owners. These would serve as an auxiliary force, adapted to meet those of the enemy of a similar description.

I submit these ideas as it may be possible that officers and seamen may arrive here in time to enable us to act with effect. But if we are to wait till the ordnance demanded from England arrives the enemy will have the uncontrolled range of the lake for the whole summer, and carry into effect the invasion of this Province

with the greatest ease. The 12-pounders coming up will make part of the 20 required, as I propose detaining the 12-pounders here and sending on the 18s to York, there being shot enough for that calibre there for the present. When our junction is formed at York the *Prince Regent* and the new ship will give us such a superiority that we may act on the offensive. Till the proper ship ordnance arrives we can put the 18s and such other ordnance as can be procured on board the new vessel building at York, so that we may be enabled to act immediately, which is the main object to be kept in view.

The ordnance required at Kingston to enable us to carry the measure into effect are twenty 12-pounders with their carriages and side arms, (including those on their way,) and a proportion of ammunition.

I have the honor of transmitting requisitions for the hulls and outfit of the new vessels, those for Amherstburg having gone down by Captain Hall. We have received iron sufficient to go on with the hulls at present, but it is essential that the cordage for the rigging and sailcloth should be sent up as quick as possible, while the roads are good, and that we may be enabled to get that part of the operation ready as soon as the vessels are finished. This ship shall be launched in April, and there can be no good reason for the other vessel being longer on the stocks, as they have the full proportion of means of every sort. I find some difficulties are raised at York. I shall therefore set out for that port the moment I can get away.

If the winter roads break up before we can forward all the supplies required at York, which will probably be the case, (as we cannot calculate upon more than a month's good travelling from hence to York from this date,) they can be carried by water in the ships of war when we form the junction. The first object is to get everything wanted for the work sent up.

If it meets Your Excellency's approbation it would greatly facilitate our operations if some sailmakers were sent along with the sail-cloth, and the sails made here to be ready to bend the moment the vessel is in a state to receive them. It may require about 8 or 10 sail-makers, in addition to what we can pick out of the ships' companies, to make the sails in the time we may require them. It would also be requisite to have a man capable of directing and taking charge of them. A master-rigger would be wanted at Kingston and another at York to superintend the outfitting of the vessels. All these people may be engaged merely for this particular service and then dismissed.

**Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe to Hon. Wm. D. Powell.**

FORT GEORGE, 20th January, 1813.

MY DEAR FRIEND:—

I had hoped to be with you before this time but indisposition has detained me here. I am to-day much better. I expect Colonel Bruyeres soon and propose returning with him. I am aware my presence is necessary in York on several accounts. I wish to consult with the E[xecutive] C[ouncil] on the time for calling the parliament, &c., &c.

My last date from h[ea]d q[uarte]rs is 3rd Jan'y, and from Bruyeres, Montreal, 8th. *Our recent communications* had not arrived.

Lt.-Col. M[yers] has a letter from Capt. G[ray] in which he asserts that he only argued on the policy, or rather impolicy, of the measure *proposed* by me, but never uttered anything personal of me as I had never given him any reason for it. Too much publicity has been given to this matter. It is a pity that Lt.-Colonel B[isshopp] did not keep my official letter to himself. It appears that copies of it have multiplied. I do not approve of it myself. I laboured too much to free *them* from responsibility if it were decided to retreat. Knowing the character of those whose opinion was to be taken, I took no risk of a retreat being resolved on indiscreetly.

I am told that late papers are in town. The Russians are stated to be successful in cutting off Bonaparte's supplies of all kinds. Alexander determined not to treat. P[rince] Regent's speech breathes determined spirit of resistance to the [pretensions?] of the United States. Indians under Tecumseh have cut off a party of Americans by ambuscade. Evans or Glegg has probably seen the papers and will give you a summary of their contents.

My letters from home are very satisfactory. I hope all at yours is so.

Gratify the Chief Justice with the good news from Russia. My best comp'ts to him. I would write to him but I hope to have the pleasure of seeing him so soon.

(From MS. of G. M. Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

### **Militia General Orders.**

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
FORT GEORGE, 20th Jan'y, 1813.

Lieut. David Morgan and Ensign Peter Weaver of the 3d Regiment of Lincoln, Ensign Biggar and Adjutant Newton of the 5th



Regiment of Lincoln, are superseded, having absented themselves without leave. In not authorizing the full rigor of the law to be exercised against those officers for the very serious offence which they have committed, His Honor Major-General Sheaffe is desirous of its being understood that he is influenced by the high opinion he entertains of the militia officers in general, with respect to whom the chief motive for an example of severity to deter others from the commission of similar crimes does not exist, but to guard against the possibility of this lenity being, in a solitary instance, converted into an encouragement for the repetition of such an offence, Major-General Sheaffe is pleased to declare that if it again occur it shall be proceeded against to the full extent of the penal provisions of the law.

By order,

ÆNEAS SHAW,

Adjt.-General, Militia.

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**Militia General Orders.**

FORT GEORGE, 20th Jan'y, 1813.

Officers commanding corps are to send to the Adjutant-General with all practicable expedition, returns of the arms, accoutrements and ammunition in their possession or in store for their use, with their state. Similar returns are to accompany the future quarterly regimental returns.

By order,

ÆNEAS SHAW,

Adjt.-General, Militia.

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**Militia General Orders.**

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

FORT GEORGE, 23d Jan'y, 1813.

The report of a Court of Enquiry, held at Amherstburg on the 28th of December last, the assembling of which, though ordered by the late Major-General Brock, was, from various causes delayed to that period, having been laid before His Honor Major-General Sheaffe, and it appearing that Lieutenants Alexis Laporte, Antoine Bonford, Ensign Windle Wagley, Ensign Peter Scratch and Ensign James Stockwell, of the 1st Regiment of Essex, Captain Pierre Labute, Lieutenant Alexis Parent, of the 2d Regiment of Essex Militia, did, in July last, quit their several stations without leave, they are therefore superseded; and it further appearing that Jacques Parent, Polithe Janisse and William Shaw, who had been recom-

mended by their respective commanding officers, and had only acted as ensigns, not having received their commissions or been appointed as such, did also absent themselves without leave, and, having thereby proved themselves unworthy of the honorable situation to which they had been recommended, they are consequently not confirmed therein but are to return to that class from which they will be liable to be drawn to serve in the ranks of the Militia.

By order,

ÆNEAS SHAW,

Adjt.-General, Militia.

**John Askin to Colonel William Claus, Deputy-Superintendent  
General of Indian Affairs.**

MICHILIMACKINAC, 24th January, 1813.

DEAR SIR :—

On the 9th Nov. last I stated that the time for sending couriers from this to Lake Superior would be about the middle of this month, but the season having been unfavourable, so much so as to prevent the crossing from the island to the mainland impossible. We have been surrounded by floating ice for a length of time past, and it's only two days that the crossing has been strong enough, therefore in a few days I will send to that quarter. As to the different tribes about the borders of Lake Michigan and this, I intend to retard sending to them before I hear from you, as well as those of Green Bay, Milwaukee, Prairie du Chien and Sauk's village, for should they be required at Amherstburg it's much nearer to those places than making this circuit. Brisbois is the Waynebago interpreter and De Perrin the Sauk int[erprete]r. They ret[ur]ne[d] from Detroit in November last with Langlade. As the former young men are good walkers and born in that country, I intend to send them to collect the tribes they belong to the moment I hear from you. Those Indians along Lake Huron, from Matchedash to La Cloche, will be desired to repair to such place as you may wish them, thro' Shawgayshe, who goes with the despatches. For that purpose it will be necessary that you order some wampum to be given him that he may make a speech and deliver the same to the different chiefs as he passes on his return to this.

Per this opportunity I transmit to Ass[istant] Sup[erintendent] Cameron the requisition for stores and stationery for 1814. It is unnecessary, I presume, to state the reason of its being augmented. The supplies required in time of war must be greater than those of the peace establishment. The quantity of guns required (tho' great) appears to me insufficient to meet the demand. It is well known

that the Indians inhabiting the interior of the country always have the guns of their deceased relations deposited in their graves, which deprives the rising generation from benefiting by them, and Indians do not by any means take that care of firearms which whites do to preserve them. None of the guns which were forwarded for this by your order last spring came to hand. They were all retained at Amherstburg and issued to the Indians of that district. The guns and rifles sent from the general store at La Chine last autumn amounts to 133, which isn't sufficient to arm those who are destitute of weapons, and unless a supply is sent in the spring every old shattered fusée that can be found will be put into requisition again. At the capture of this place we found 43 Spanish fusees in the Indian store, which were issued to the Indians, and the quality so bad that I firmly believe there isn't ten now in their possession, the rest having burst, and numbers of them have been wounded in consequence thereof.

Previous to Mr. R. Dickson's leaving this for Lower Canada he applied for a supply of goods and ammunition to be sent to the Sauk and Ayanway Indians, under some person he wished to name, and that person to make the distribution in the two villages. The amount of the expenses and goods to be sent, estimated by him, were from £800 to £1000 H[alifa]x Curr[enc]y, but the commanding officer being apprehensive that he wasn't authorized to depart from the established rules, declined to acquiesce in Mr. D's proposal, and for my part I could not interfere as the command[ing] officer was the person who Mr. D. had applied to, and who had martial law proclaimed some time previous to that period. It appears to me that Mr. Dickson was much displeased as his wishes were not complied with. We haven't had any news or intelligence from Green Bay or any place else, and have been shut up from every communication since November last.

(Canadian Archives, M. G., XI.)

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### Militia General Orders.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
FORT GEORGE, 25th January, 1813.

His Honor Major-General Sheaffe is pleased to appoint Adjutant John Clark of the 1st Regiment of Lincoln to be Deputy-Adjutant General to the Militia in this District.

By order,

ÆNEAS SHAW,  
Adjt.-General Militia,  
U. C.

**Militia General Orders.**

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
FORT GEORGE, 25th January, 1813.

His Honor Major-General Sheaffe has been pleased to make the following promotions and appointments, viz :—

**3RD REGT., LINCOLN.**

|                                                                      |                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Captain John Warren to be Major, <i>vice</i> Warren resigned.....    | 25th Jan'y, 1813 |
| Lieut. John Baxter to be Captain.....                                | " " "            |
| Lieut. William Powell to be do.....                                  | " " "            |
| Lieut. James Cummings to be do.....                                  | " " "            |
| Lieut. John J. Lafferty to be do.....                                | " " "            |
| Adjutant Henry Trout to be Lieut.....                                | " " "            |
| Ensign Benjamin Hardison to be do.....                               | " " "            |
| Ensign William D. Miller to be do.....                               | " " "            |
| Ensign John Putman to be do.....                                     | " " "            |
| Ensign Augustus Angor to be do.....                                  | " " "            |
| Hugh Alexander, gent., to be do.....                                 | " " "            |
| Osius Boughner, gent., to be do.....                                 | " " "            |
| Henry Weishuhn, gent., to be Ensign.....                             | " " "            |
| Jacob Gonder, gent., to be do.....                                   | " " "            |
| John Miller, gent., to be do.....                                    | " " "            |
| John Bonner, gent., to be do.....                                    | " " "            |
| George Whitehead, gent., to be do.....                               | " " "            |
| John Harcourt, gent., to be do., <i>vice</i> Morgan superseded.....  | " " "            |
| James Thompson, gent., to be do., <i>vice</i> Weaver superseded..... | " " "            |
| James Robinson, gent., to be Quartermaster.....                      | " " "            |

ÆNEAS SHAW,  
Adjutant-General Militia.

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**John Askin to Hon. Wm. D. Powell.**

January 25th, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—I had the pleasure of receiving your kind letter of 6th inst. last night, covering papers to which the utmost attention will be given so soon as the present bustle is over, or (illegible) by the victory we obtained at the River Raisin on Friday last. The official account of the number of the killed, wounded and taken prisoners of the enemy, as well as our loss, will be more correct than what I could give; I therefore refer you to it. It's most

astonishing that so good marksmen as the Americans are from behind a stockade or other cover, in the course of an engagement which continued six hours, firing on our people who were exposed, killed and wounded so few and we so many. Surely the hand of the Almighty must have been lifted up for us. Of our small force there must have been 500 men not in the action. The whole of the River Thames militia got no further than Malden, and several of the new settlements therefore not in the action. Our Canadians who were could not be restrained by Col. St. George from pushing forward, and Col. Procter with our regular forces began the attack at so little distance that our cannon was of little use, being so near that our men from the first were within musket shot of the enemy. Of the militia there are only four killed, and I dare say not more of the Indians, who behaved with the utmost bravery. It was them who took the General, and is said to have killed some hundred who took to flight; indeed very few escaped. You may rely on it that without the Indians we never could keep this country, and that with them the Americans never will take the upper posts, for let them send forward as many men as they will, if we employ the foreign Indians we can have equal numbers, which is more than is wanted, for in the woods where the Americans must pass one Indian is equal to three white men, let the nation be what it will. Lieut.-Col. Baby was ordered to take charge of Malden, and my son James and his flank company Detroit, in which there was not a single regular or artilleryman left, Captain Muir excepted, who was not cured of his sickness. None of our family suffered except Dr. Richardson's second son, Robert, (14 years old) shot through the leg. I have no less than seventeen of my family now in the service: sons, grandsons, including three sons-in-law. McCormick, Gordon and Garvin were wounded. The latter lost his father a few days ago.

I'm very sorry indeed for the cause of your family grief. Such men were lost on 13th October as cannot be easily replaced. A seeming hard, untimely fate, yet what Providence permits must be for the best, and I doubt not the brave men who fell on that day are happy.

Mr. Francis Baby as a volunteer bravely assisted during the action. Mr. James Baby, I understand, waited at Malden for the arrival of his Kent militia, and therefore was not in the action. My grandson from Mich[ilimackinac], (now in the commissary line,) deserted or went without leave and joined the Indians in the action.

Your friendship, my good Sir, makes you overrate my fortitude. Yet, as long as God gives Mrs. Askin, myself and family health, I think her spirits and mine never will fail us, and although

when the lives of our children are at risk we feel anxiety, yet we would suffer much more did any of them shrink from doing their duty. But, thank God, I never discovered any other fear in them but that of doing wrong. Alexander is only recovered so as to be able to do duty some days ago since he volunteered, (illegible) and several others have died of a disease they caught on that expedition. I doubt if ever Captain McKee will recover; he has not yet been able to get out of his house.

We fear more that the posts may be given up when a peace takes place than anything else; for if they are you may rely on it we lose the Indians' interest and trade of this quarter, and I'm persuaded they will become hostile to the British, even should the Americans not join them. The country about this and Mich[ilimackinac], which we have got possession of, the Indians consider as their hunting ground, acquired by their assistance, therefore that we have no right to part with them without their connivance.

Did I know of any public employment in the gift of His Honour the President, the duties of which I could perform at my own house, I would request your friendly interest to procure it for me. My handwriting is as clear as it has been for twenty years past. I can read and write without spectacles, even by candlelight. However, though my means of living were small before the war broke out and since has become less for want of hands to repair my mill and others to work my distillery, yet I don't want to be a burthen to our Government or require pay for doing nothing.

Mrs. Askin joins me in respectful compliments to Mrs. Powell, the young ladies and your family connections.

(From MS. in possession of G. M. Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

### **Militia General Order.**

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
FORT GEORGE, 25th January, 1813.

As often as it may become necessary to make an application for the pension authorized by an act of the Legislature of this Province to the widows or children of such of the Militia as may be killed, or to such men as may be disabled in the service during the present war, the application, when made in behalf of a widow, must be accompanied by an affidavit of the officer who commanded the company to which the husband belonged at the time of his death, and when that cannot be had by that of some other commissioned officer who was present, which affidavit may be in the following words: "I, A—— B——, do swear that B—— C—— (sergeant or private, as the case may be,) in the—— Regiment of—— Militia was

killed or died of wounds received in service against the enemy, and in the execution of his duty on the——day of——181——, and that to the best of my knowledge and belief C—— D—— is his widow." This affidavit being transmitted to 'he office of the Lieutenant-Governor or person administering the Government of this Province will place the widow on the pension list. After which her own affidavit that she remains the widow of the said B—— C——, being transmitted to the office of the Receiver General on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June and 24<sup>th</sup> of December in each year, will authorize her to draw on him at the expiration of each of those periods for one-half of her pension. When application is made on behalf of the children, there being no widow, the affidavit of the officer must substantiate the death of the father as in the case of the widow, and that to the best of his knowledge and belief the applicants are his children. After which a half-yearly affidavit, either of one of themselves being of age or of their guardian, that they are the children of—— and that the youngest has not attained the age of sixteen years, must accompany the draughts on the Receiver General.

When the application is made in behalf of a man who has been disabled in the service, the affidavit of the officer substantiating the fact must be accompanied by the certificate of some competent surgeon that the person is actually unable to earn his livelihood. After which a half-yearly affidavit by himself, that he is the person so disabled, must accompany his draughts on the Receiver General.

By order,

ÆNEAS SHAW,

Adj<sup>t</sup>-General Militia.

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(From the Buffalo Gazette, 26th January, 1813.)

#### MORE ABSENTEES FROM CANADA.

On Saturday last two soldiers and three subjects came across Lake Erie on the ice from Canada. They state that sickness and famine continue to ravage Upper Canada; that the most rigid iron despotism reigns. No person can speak his sentiments with freedom in relation to the Government; that the 41st Regiment is very much reduced by desertion, sickness, &c. That on the memorable 28th of November Fort Erie was abandoned, and that Major Henry Warren quitted the battery when our brave tars attacked and did not return under 3 or 4 days afterwards, when he resigned. It is reported he will be tried. John Warren, junior, is said to succeed him. Our readers may estimate the above as they please, we give the source from whence it came.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)



**Lieut.-Colonel Bruyeres, R. E., to Sir George Prevost.**

**FORT GEORGE, 28th January, 1813.**

(Extract.)

I am grieved to say that Major-General Sheaffe has been so dangerously ill that it is not possible to communicate much with him on public business; he is rather better but very weak, and will require time to recover.

(Canadian Archives, C. 729, p. 71.)

**Lieut.-Colonel Myers to Sir George Prevost.**

**FORT GEORGE, 30th January, 1813.**

SIR,—A severe attack of illness, under which Major-General Sheaffe at present labors, prevents him from writing to you, and therefore he has directed me to transmit to Your Excellency a letter (No. 1.) received by him last night from Colonel Procter, together with its enclosures marked Nos. 2, 3 and 4. The Major-General has at the same time commanded me to convey to Your Excellency his sincere congratulations upon the success which has attended His Majesty's arms, and to add his tribute of praise to the promptitude and decision of Colonel Procter on this occasion, and to the gallant conduct of the troops under his command.

Upon the arrival of the prisoners of war at this place, they will be disposed of agreeably to the treaty entered into by Your Excellency with General Dearborn on the 21st of November.

The light infantry company of the 41st Regiment will be forthwith pushed on to Amherstburg.

Major-General Sheaffe has directed me to inform Your Excellency that as Brigade-Major Evans was to proceed to his regiment on his promotion and which is daily looked for, he has judged it expedient to commit this despatch to his care to be by him delivered to Your Excellency, and as he has had full communication with Lieut. McLean, A. D. C. to Colonel Procter, he will be able to give Your Excellency every further information relating to the Colonel's command.

Captain Glegg will be ordered to perform the duty of Major of Brigade *vice* Evans, as is understood to be Your Excellency's desire.

(Canadian Archives, C. 678.)

(From the Buffalo Gazette, 2d February, 1813.)

Several deserters have crossed the lake since our last. We understand that they know nothing of the victory obtained over Winchester, but that on the contrary several companies have recently left Fort Erie for Malden. But little dependence can be placed on the stories of deserters, when, however, they all tell the same in substance, whatever they tell wears the semblance of truth. Care should be taken the gentlemen deserters should not retrace their steps.

On Wednesday last orders came on this place to march the U. S. Volunteers, under Capt. Moore and Lieuts. Doyle and Marshall, to Utica. Arrangements were accordingly made to march the Pennsylvania Volunteers, Lieut. Marshall; and Albany Greens, Lieut. Doyle, on Sunday last, and the Baltimore Volunteers on Monday. But in consequence of the flag on Saturday [giving an account of General Winchester's defeat at the River Raisin,] the orders were countermanded. The men are again ordered to march, to-morrow morning.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

**Memorandum of a Council held with the Chiefs of the Six Nations at Buffalo, February 2d, 1813, by Erastus Granger, Agent, etc.**

**LITTLE BILLY, SPEAKER :**

**BROTHERS,**—Pay attention to what I say. It is the voice of the Six Nations that speaks to you. I am appointed to speak.

**BROTHER,**—I feel inadequate to the task, but shall proceed. We are about to reply to your talk some days since on the subject of going to Washington. We are unanimous in the answer we are about to give.

**BROTHER,**—Perhaps you will not be pleased with the manner in which our minds are made up. We have been told that all communications between us and your Government must be made through the agent. At the same time we were told that in any business of an important nature we might be permitted to send a deputation to Washington.

**BROTHER,**—What the President meant we know not, but we believe this is one of those cases in which we are permitted to go. What can be more important than our present situation. Since the declaration of war we have received nothing direct from the President. We think we ought to be permitted to go and have a full understanding as to the course we shall pursue if the war continues.

**BROTHER,**—It would be more satisfactory to those who remain

if we could see the President. We do not doubt but you will do all you can for us, but if a few chiefs go the warriors will be better satisfied.

BROTHER,—Since the declaration of war your exertions have kept us all united. Your measures have kept us bound to the United States. The enemy are near; we do not think proper for you to leave here.

BROTHER,—Another reason, you are unwell; it is a long journey; we fear that you are unable to perform it, and your loss to us would be great. Captain Parrish lives at Canandaigua; there is less danger there. He can be better spared to go with us.

BROTHER,—We have selected three from the Seneca Nation, one from the Onondaga, one from the Oneida and one from the Tuscarora Nation. We think we can raise money for the expense of taking us to Washington, which we think the Government will refund.

Red Jacket in reply to my answer said: We have agreed to postpone going to Washington, under the idea suggested by you that a commissioner will be appointed to meet us and come to a firm understanding between us and the United States. Let a man be appointed who is acquainted with Indian customs and with us.

(From Ketchum's History of Buffalo, Vol. II., pp. 426-7.)

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### Augustus Porter to Peter B. Porter.

BUFFALO, February 3rd, 1813.

SIR,—Before you receive this you will undoubtedly have heard of the defeat and capture of General Winchester's division of Harrison's army. As to the truth of the report, it yet remains all uncertainty as to particulars, tho' I have no doubt a battle has been fought and a number of our men have been taken, but so great a part of the army yet remains as very much disturbs the people on the Canada side, as on yesterday and today all the force of the enemy from the river have moved westward, it is supposed with a view to meet the main body of the N. W. army. I presume there is not now on the whole river 300 men left, and yet the famous army of *the Centre* makes not a single movement to produce a diversion in favor of the N. W. A.,\* but are snugly huddled at the Eleven Mile Creek, and fearing that the military stores on the lines may be disturbed are moving them to their camp for protection, and leave the defenceless inhabitants to protect themselves. What are the Government about? Why do they not send some man here to

\*North Western Army.

command who will do something and not let our armies be cut up in detail.

I see in the last *Albany Gazette* another abusive piece against you by S. V. Rensselaer. I hope you will not undertake to challenge such a rascal. You ought to horsewhip the scoundrel. I beg of you not to attempt to fight a duel with him, but abuse him back in the papers, and if you come across him personally kick and cuff him. I have not heard from you since you left N. York. I feel very anxious to hear.

(From MSS. of Hon. Peter A. Porter,)

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**Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.**

(No. 39.)

QUEBEC, 6th February, 1813.

MY LORD :—

The extreme anxiety I experience respecting the naval force to be employed on Lake Ontario in the spring of this year has rendered the proceedings in the dockyards at Kingston and York highly interesting to me.

I have, therefore, the honour to report to Your Lordship that I propose leaving Quebec the 12th or 13th instant for Montreal, from whence it is my intention to proceed to Prescott, Kingston, York and Fort George, and from thence return to Lower Canada.

It not being my desire to interfere in the civil administration of Upper Canada while in that Province, I have requested Major-General Sheaffe to consider my visit as solely directed to researches regarding objects of a military nature.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 121, p. 56.)

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**District General Order.**

FORT GEORGE, 6th February, 1813.

Ensign Nathaniel Coffin, on the half-pay of the 15th Foot, is appointed Provincial Aide-de-Camp to His Honor Major-General Sheaffe, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the Militia of Upper Canada, his appointment bearing date 26th October, 1812.

J. B. GLEGG, Captain,  
B. M.

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**Militia General Order.**

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
FORT GEORGE, 8th February, 1813.

His Honor Major-General Sheaffe is pleased to make the following appointment, viz. :—

1st Regiment, Lincoln—James George, Gent., to be Ensign, 8th February, 1813.

ÆNEAS SHAW,  
Adjut.-General, Militia.

Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.

(No. 41.)

QUEBEC, 8th February, 1813.

MY LORD :—

I have had the honour to receive Your Lordship's despatches, Nos. 10, 11 and 12, the two former of the date of the 1st and the latter of the 10th October last.

The entire approbation which His Royal Highness the Prince Regent has been pleased to express of Major-General Brock's conduct, and which it is His Royal Highness's desire that I should convey to him, makes me the more deeply regret that I am unable from the fall of that lamented officer to fulfil His Royal Highness's commands, and to afford General Brock the great satisfaction that he could not have failed to receive from so unequivocal a proof of His Royal Highness's favor as his gracious appointment of him to be an extra knight of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.

In obedience to His Royal Highness's commands I have availed myself of the earliest opportunity, after the receipt of Your Lordship's despatch in which they were conveyed to me, to signify to the army in the British North American Provinces His Royal Highness's approbation of the able, judicious and decisive conduct of Major-General Brock, of the zeal and spirit manifested by Col. Procter and the other officers, as well as of the intrepidity of the troops under Major-General Brock's command, together with the satisfaction which His Royal Highness has been pleased to express of the steadiness and order observed by the Indian warriors in the co-operation they afforded under Colonel Elliott and Captain McKee, and at the humanity with which they had treated their prisoners.

This highly gracious and flattering testimony from His Royal Highness the Prince Regent to the good conduct of that part of the army which had so favorable an opportunity of distinguishing itself in Upper Canada cannot fail to have the happiest effects upon the other divisions of the North American army, and to stimulate

them to merit a similar meed whenever the enemy should venture to put their courage and conduct to the test.

I have great satisfaction in reporting to Your Lordship the zeal and alacrity with which the militia, both embodied and sedentary, continue to discharge their several duties. The sedentary militia, who have been called out to do duty for a short period in this garrison, as well as with a view to relieve the King's troops as to obtain the instruction so necessary for them, have obeyed the call with the greatest cheerfulness and are daily improving in discipline.

As about 900 men of the select embodied militia will become by law entitled to their discharge in June next, I have ordered a draft from the sedentary militia of 2,200 men to replace them. This draft will take place in March and will carry the five battalions of select militia to 4,000 men, exclusive of the corps of *voltigeurs* and three troops of volunteer cavalry, making altogether 5,000 men. Clothing of inferior quality has been procured by the Commissary General for 4,000 militiamen in Lower Canada and for 2,000 in Upper Canada, which will be in readiness to be issued in April, at least four months sooner than I can look for the requisitions I have made to England for this service.

I had the honour of acquainting Your Lordship in my despatch of the 15th of January last with the measures I was pursuing for the protection of the Upper Province. I have now to acquaint Your Lordship that notwithstanding the severity of the season at this period of the year, four companies of the King's Regiment have marched from Montreal to Kingston, and that the progress in the construction of the new ships on Lake Ontario has been reported to me as considerable. A large proportion of their stores and other essential articles has arrived at Kingston and York, the places where the vessels are building, and the keel of a new sloop of war has been laid down at Amherstburg for the service of Lake Erie.

I look forward to receive from Halifax, as soon as the season will permit, some part of the outfit for the ship that is building at Kingston, and I have fortunately obtained eighteen carronades from a merchant here, which are now on sledges in readiness to send out whenever Lake Ontario becomes again navigable.

About eighty seamen had entered for the lake service, and have been sent on under petty officers, but a more ample supply, both of experienced officers and able seamen, is indispensably requisite to render our naval force on those waters efficient.

Eight heavy guns for positions with their stores are in movement from Quebec, to strengthen the posts at Prescott, Kingston and York.

An active and intelligent officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Bruyeres, the commanding engineer, has been despatched in order to visit the principal posts in Upper Canada and to give the necessary directions for placing them in that state which will be most efficient for repelling any further attacks of the enemy. But as I deem it of great importance to the future safety of this Province that I should be enabled from personal observation to form a just estimate of its resources and of its means of defence, I had proposed availing myself of the present opportunity, (being the only period in which I could for a few weeks, without any inconvenience to the public service, quit Lower Canada,) to visit Kingston, York and Fort George. I had therefore intended to leave Quebec for Montreal on my way to those places in the course of next week. The arrival of the despatches last night with the glorious intelligence\* which I have had the honour of communicating to Your Lordship in a separate despatch of this date, containing also the information of the serious indisposition of Major-General Sheaffe, has confirmed me in the necessity of proceeding as soon as possible to the Upper Province. I shall therefore not delay my departure from hence beyond the 15th inst. By that time I hope to be able to close the present session of the Provincial Legislature, after obtaining from them a liberal supply for the Militia service, as well as the laws necessary to carry into effect the measures I had proposed for their consideration.

In obedience to the commands of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, signified by the additional instructions received last night, I shall direct Major-General De Rottenburg, the senior military officer under my command in Lower Canada, to assume the civil administration, and from his zeal and ability I have every reason to expect a faithful and correct discharge of the duties to be committed to him.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 121, p. 59.)

**Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.**

(No. 43.)

QUEBEC, 8th February, 1813.

MY LORD :—

A small detachment from the Royal Artillery at Fort George, with the light infantry company of the 41st Regiment, have

**\*The defeat of General Winchester by Colonel Procter at the River Raisin.**



marched to reinforce Detroit. They are to be replaced on the Niagara frontier by troops now in motion from Montreal.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 121, p. 68.)

### General Order.

QUEBEC, 8th February, 1813.

The Commander of the Forces is pleased to appoint until further orders or until the pleasure of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent is known,—

Colonel Vincent, 49th Regiment, and Colonel Procter, 41st Regiment, to have the rank of Brigadier-General in Upper Canada.

Lieutenant-Colonel Pearson, Inspecting Field Officer, to have the rank of Colonel in Kingston and the Eastern district; Major Macdonnell, Glengarry Light Infantry, to have the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the same.

EDWARD BAYNES,  
Adj.-General, North America.

### General Orders.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
QUEBEC, 8th February, 1813.

His Excellency Lieut.-General Sir George Prevost, Bart., Governor-in-Chief and Commander of the Forces in British North America, having seen in the *Boston Gazette* of the 28th January last a publication purporting to be a copy of the general order issued by the American Government in the following terms, namely:

Adjutant-General's Office,  
Washington City, 18th Jan'y, 1813.

### GENERAL ORDERS.

The following officers of the Army and Militia of the United States made prisoners of war at Detroit, Queenston and elsewhere, have been duly exchanged for the officers, non-commissioned officers, drummers and privates taken on board His Britannic Majesty's transport *Samuel and Sarah*, on the 11th day of July, 1812, viz.: Brigadier-General William Hull, Colonels Duncan McArthur, James Findley and Lewis Cass; Lieutenant-Colonels James Miller, John R. Fenwick, Winfield Scott and John Christie; Major James Taylor; Captains Nathan Heald, John Whistler, Henry B. Brevoort, Josiah Tnelling, Robert Lucas, Abraham F. Hull, Peter Ogilvie, Joel Cook and Return B. Brown; First Lieutenant Charles Larrabee; Second Lieutenants James Dalliba and Daniel Hugunin, and each and all

the aforesaid officers are hereby declared exchanged and as free to act against the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the dependencies thereof as if they had never been captured.

By order of the Secretary of War.

F. H. CUSHING,

Adjutant-General.

His Excellency considers himself called upon in the most public manner to protest against the pretended release of the above named officers from their parole of honor given under their hands while prisoners of war. His Excellency having expressly refused to accede to the exchange of the officers above named, as proposed to him by Major-General Dearborn in his letters of the 26th Dec. and 2nd Jan. last under the authority of the American Government, upon the identical terms contained in the order of the 18th January before referred to, His Excellency feels himself compelled hereby to declare that he still considers those officers as prisoners of war on their parole, and should the fate of war again place any of them at the disposal of the British Government before a regular and ratified exchange of them takes place, they will be deemed to have broken their parole and to be subject to all the consequences sanctioned by the established usages of war in the like cases.

The detachment of the 1st Regiment of Royal Scots, captured by the U. S. frigate *Essex* on board the *Samuel and Sarah* transport, who are stated in the said order of the 18th of January to have been duly exchanged for the officers of the American army therein mentioned, had been previously, as far back as the month of September last, regularly exchanged for the crew of the U. S. sloop *Nautilus* and a sufficient number of other seamen belonging to the U. S. Navy, as appears by an official communication to His Excellency Lieut.-General Sir J. C. Sherbrooke, K. B., commanding the forces in Nova Scotia, confirmed by a letter from Mr. Mitchell, the American agent of prisoners at Halifax, to the Honorable James Monroe, American Secretary of State, dated the 23rd of November last, transmitted to His Excellency by Major-General Dearborn in his letter of 2d Jan. last. The release of said detachment by such exchange was published in General Orders on the 29th September last at Montreal, and also communicated to Major-General Dearborn in His Excellency's letter of the 11th January last, as the ground of his refusal to accede to the before mentioned proposal of that officer.

To avoid, however, every possibility of mistake or error upon this subject and to prevent any further misunderstanding respecting it, His Excellency has thought proper to direct Major Murray, agent

for the exchange of prisoners of war, to proceed with a flag of truce to the American headquarters, and should he be satisfied upon enquiry that the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the detachment of the 1st Regiment of Royal Scots have not been considered by the American Government as regularly exchanged for the crew of the U. S. sloop *Nautilus* and other seamen belonging to the U. S. Navy as before stated, Major Murray is then authorized to release from parole an equal number of officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the regular troops of the American army made prisoners of war at Detroit, Niagara or elsewhere, as may be agreed upon between him and Major-General Dearborn.

But His Excellency cannot admit the right assumed by the American Government in the order before referred to, to arrange and class the exchange of prisoners of war in such manner as may best suit their convenience or advantage. All exchanges of prisoners of war must be ratified by both parties before the release of them becomes valid, and whenever it is practicable the exchange is to be conducted on the scale of parity of rank and service—officers, grade for grade, sergeant for sergeant, soldier for soldier, regular for regular, militia for militia, and the tariff adopted for exchange in the foregoing order can only be admitted in cases where the regular exchange by parity of rank and service cannot take place, and then only by the mutual concurrence of both parties.

EDWARD BAYNES,

Adjt.-General North America.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 121, p. 130.)

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**Sir George Prevost to Brigadier-General Procter.**

CATTLE OF ST. LEWIS, QUEBEC,

9th February, 1813.

SIR,—I have received your despatch of the 25th ult., addressed to Major-General Sheaffe, reporting the glorious result of an attack you had very judiciously deemed it expedient to make on the 22nd, on a division of General Harrison's army advancing from the River Raisin upon Sandwich, commanded by Brigadier-General Winchester.

In congratulating you upon so honorable an event and in expressing my entire approbation of the zeal and spirit which you have evinced on that arduous command committed to you, I cannot fail to notice the intrepidity manifested by Colonel St. George and the other officers and men, regulars and militia, serving under your immediate command.

Your singular judgment and decisive conduct in the affair of

French Town shall be portrayed for the gracious consideration of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and I will not fail in repeating your warm recommendation of Lieutenant McLean, who is acting as your Brigade-Major.

I earnestly recommend upon all occasions a strict adherence to the control and restraint of our allies the Indians, that we may be enabled to repel the charges which have not infrequently, though always falsely, been brought against our Government for resorting to the employment of them.

(From Some Account of the Public Life of the Lieutenant-General, Sir George Prevost, Bart., London, 1823. Appendix No. XXIII, pp. 65-6.)

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**Note Presented to the Cabinet on the 8th February, 1873, by the Secretary of War.**

The enemy's force at Montreal and its dependencies has been stated at 16,000 effectives. It more probably does not exceed 10 or 12,000. The militia part of it may amount to one-sixth of the whole. Is it probable that we shall be able to open the campaign on Lake Champlain with a force competent to meet and dislodge this army before the 15th of May? I put the question on this date because it is not to be doubted but that the enemy will then be reinforced, and of course that new relation in point of strength will be established between us. Our present regular force on both sides of Lake Champlain does not exceed 2400 men. The addition made to it must necessarily consist of recruits, who for a time will not be better than militia, and when we consider that the recruiting service is but beginning and that we now approach the middle of February, the conclusion is, I think, safe that we cannot move in this direction and thus early, (say 1st of May,) with effect.

It then remains to choose between a course of entire inaction because incompetent to the main attack and having a secondary, but still an important, object; such would be the reduction of that part of Upper Canada lying between the town of Prescott on the St. Lawrence and Lake Erie, including the towns of Kingston and York and the Forts George and Erie.

On this line of frontier, the enemy have

|                         |      |
|-------------------------|------|
| At Prescott.....        | 300  |
| At Kingston.....        | 600  |
| At George and Erie..... | 1200 |

---

Making a total (of regular troops) of..... 2100

Kingston and Prescott and the destruction of the British ships

at the former would present the first object, York and the frigates said to be building there the second, George and Erie the third.

The force to be employed on this service should not be less than 6,000 effective regular troops, because in this first enterprise of a second campaign nothing must, if possible, be left to chance.

The time for giving execution to this plan is clearly indicated by the following facts :—

1st—The river St. Lawrence is not open to the purposes of navigation before the 15th of May, and

2nd—Lake Ontario is free from all obstruction, arising from ice, by the 1st day of April.

Under these circumstances we shall have six weeks for the expedition before it is possible for Sir George Prevost to give it any disturbance.

Should this outline be approved the details for the service can be made and expedited in forty-eight hours.

Adopted and approved 16th February, 1813.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 439.)

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**Major-General Sheaffe to Colonel Baynes.**

FORT GEORGE, 9th February, 1813.

MY DEAR COLONEL :—

I send you extracts from a letter I received last night from Colonel Procter. You will see that he was very anxious for a reinforcement, which I hope arrived very few days after he wrote. From the information of those who met it on the route I have reason to believe that it reached its destination on the 6th or at the latest on the 7th. I sent him all his light company, and the addition of artillerymen will no doubt be highly acceptable to him. I feel no doubt of Sir George's approbation of the movement. Some barrack bedding accompanied them, with some supplies for the militia. The Provincial Legislature is summoned to assemble on the 25th inst., before which time I hope to be quite restored to health, though my recovery does not keep pace either with my wishes or expectations. I am advised to abstain as much as possible from business, but business, especially at such a time, must be done. You may discover my weakness in my writing. I cannot yet enter on the task of a long despatch to Sir George. I am establishing the system recommended for the payment of the militia. I hope to learn soon how these things are done below. I propose issuing to the General Staff of the militia, and to officers of the flank companies that were out during the last campaign, 200 days bat and forage, if Sir George Prevost approves of it. I understand that a

similar issue was made below. I have also to request His Excellency's authority for forming a corps of Artillery Drivers on terms like those on which there is now one raising in the Lower Province, and also for the purchase of an additional number of horses. Capt. Glegg has already written, by my direction, on these subjects, and has transmitted a return to serve for further explanation. It would be highly useful, too, that it should be placed in my power to give some additional encouragement to serving in the Provincial Artillery. Neither my head nor my hand is in a state to enter more largely into these subjects. I have ordered clothing from Montreal for these two corps, some of which, at least, I hope to get up this winter. Our session will probably be short, but I trust it will not be unproductive of benefit to our militia system.

Some of the prisoners have arrived and have been passed over. General Winchester, a colonel and a major remain here for orders from headquarters.

Colonel Elliott writes to Colonel Claus that there are about a hundred Indians detained by the Americans, whom our allies wish to get exchanged. Major Plenderleath and Captain Bridge arrived to-day.

(Canadian Archives, C. 678, p. 86.)

**Captain J. B. Glegg, Acting Brigade Major, to Colonel Baynes.**

**FORT GEORGE, 10th February, 1813.**

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit for your information a return of the troops, regulars, militia, marine and Indian department, who were engaged at French Town on the River Raisin on the 22d January, 1813, with a statement of the killed and wounded.

A return of the reinforcement that left this post on the 2d instant to join Colonel Procter at Amherstburg is herewith enclosed.

I avail myself of this opportunity to inform you that Brigadier-General Winchester, with about twenty officers, arrived here two days since, and with the exception of the General, a few field officers and his personal staff, they have all been allowed to go over to the American side on their parole—those remaining are merely detained until His Excellency's pleasure shall be known.

(Canadian Archives, C. 678, p. 91.)

**(From the Buffalo Gazette, 9th February, 1813.)**

Well informed men give it as their opinion that there does not remain 300 regulars on the Niagara river from Fort George to Fort Erie, the force having been withdrawn up the lake.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

## The Secretary of War to General Dearborn.

(Extract.)

WAR DEPARTMENT, February 10, 1813.

I have the President's orders to communicate to you, as expeditiously as possible, the outline of a campaign which you will immediately institute and pursue against Upper Canada :

1st—4,000 troops will be assembled at Sackett's Harbor.

2nd—3,000 will be brought together at Buffalo and its vicinity.

3rd—The former of these corps will be embarked and transported under convoy of the fleet to Kingston, where they will be landed. Kingston, its garrison, and the British ships wintering in the harbor, will be the first object. Its second object will be York, (the capital of Upper Canada,) the stores collected and the two vessels building there. Its third object, Forts George and Erie and their dependencies. In the attainment of this last there will be a co-operation between the two corps. The composition of these will be as follows :—

|                                                                                                           |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1st, Bloomfield's brigade.....                                                                            | 1436  |
| 2nd, Chandler's do .....                                                                                  | 1044  |
| 3rd, Philadelphia detachment.....                                                                         | 400   |
| 4th, Baltimore do .....                                                                                   | 300   |
| 5th, Carlisle do .....                                                                                    | 200   |
| 6th, Greenbush do .....                                                                                   | 400   |
| 7th, Sackett's Harbor do .....                                                                            | 250   |
|                                                                                                           | <hr/> |
|                                                                                                           | 4030  |
| 8th, several corps at Buffalo under the command of Colonel Porter and the recruits belonging thereto..... | 3000  |
|                                                                                                           | <hr/> |
| Total.....                                                                                                | 7030  |

The time for executing the enterprise will be governed by the opening of Lake Ontario, which usually takes place about the first of April.

The Adjutant-General has orders to put the more southern detachment in march as expeditiously as possible. The two brigades on Lake Champlain you will move so as to give them full time to reach their destination by the 25th of March. The route by Elizabeth will, I think, be the shortest and best. They will be replaced by some new raised regiments from the east.

You will put into your movements as much privacy as may be compatible with their execution. They may be masked by reports that Sackett's Harbor is in danger, and that the principal effort will



be made on the Niagara in co-operation with General Harrison. As the route to Sackett's Harbor and to Niagara is for a considerable distance the same, it may be well to intimate, even in orders, that the latter is the destination of the two brigades now at Lake Champlain.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., pp. 439-40.)

**Major J. B. Glegg to Hon. Wm. D. Powell.**

FORT GEORGE, 11th February, 1813.

MY DEAR SIR:—

I cannot allow Dr. Forrest to return without sending you a few lines. In the first place let me inform you that our friend, the General, advances rapidly in convalescence. His Provincial A. D. C., Lieut.-Col. Coffin, drives him out daily, and he begins to transact business with the heads of departments *a l'ordinaire*. He was thrown into a little flurry yesterday afternoon by a report from Captain Bullock that the enemy were crossing in large numbers opposite Point Abino. I cannot possibly imagine an excuse from an officer *stating that to be a fact* which he knows nothing of but from hearsay. The news reached me at the Twelve Mile creek about 7 o'clock, where I had driven out in the morning hoping to find my friend Myers. I never received intelligence with more agonized feelings. The reflection produced by our poor friend's health, the absence of Colonels Myers and Bishopp from their respective posts, rendered me for some time the most wretched of beings. My suspense was fortunately relieved before I reached Fort George, and I found General S[heaffe] in excellent humor, with a small fireside party. It appears that a party of militia who had arrived at Horne's (Haun's) with loaded muskets, not choosing to draw the charge, had fired them off and gave rise to the rumor, which was immediately converted into a fact.

A despatch has reached the General this morning from Colonel Procter in 58 hour, stating that General Harrison has reached the River Raisin with nearly two thousand men. Colonel P. asks for more men, which we cannot afford him, having barely sufficient to perform the duties of our extended line. The reinforcement of the 41st and Royal Artillery, consisting of 101 r[ank] and f[ile], had reached him. He will not, I think, be rash enough to march out to meet Harrison. If the Indians perform their part I entertain no kind of apprehension for his safety. Report states that Tecumseth was advancing in Harrison's rear, which, if true, must soon bring things to a crisis. At all events, if the Indians are active and vigilant in his rear he must fight or surrender.

I see nothing but grounds for hope. I hope something will be done to bring out a portion of our militia. Might not an appeal to their feelings have a good effect?

We are very weak on this communication, and the enemy must know it.

I beg you will offer my kindest remembrances to all friends.  
[P. S.]—Lieut.-Col. Myers arrived last night.

(From MS. in possession of G. M. Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

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**Major-General Æneas Shaw, Adjutant General of Militia, to  
Lieut.-Colonel Thomas Clark, Commanding and Lincoln  
Militia.**

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
FORT GEORGE, 11th February, 1813.

SIR,—There being reason to believe that the enemy meditates some attempt on the frontiers, I am directed to desire that you will, with all possible expedition, assemble not only the flank companies of your regiment but as many spirited young men in addition as can be induced to join them, at Chippawa, where quarters will be prepared for their reception.

His Honor Major-General Sheaffe trusts that on this occasion both the officers and men will recollect the very honorable and successful manner in which they have hitherto contributed to the defence of the Province, and that for a little time longer private considerations will give way to public.

(From the History of Thorold, Appendix I., p. 62.)

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**Names of Men Belonging to my Company who Rec'd Clothing  
at Carter's Point, Feb'y 12, 1813.**

- 1 Albert Berdan.
- 2 Abraham Messecar.
- 3 Elijah Williams.
- 4 Job Messecar.
- 5 Henry Williams.
- 6 Charles Harman.
- 7 Pinkney Mabee.
- 8 John Winan.
- 9 Samuel Berdan.
- 10 Alexander Lemon.
- 11 Cornelius Slaght.
- 12 Peter Hogadone.
- 13 George Matthews.

- 14 James McQueen.
- 15 Peter Horton.
- 16 David Conrad.
- 17 Charles Glover.
- 18 John Sovereign.
- 19 Michael Shoff.
- 20 John Slaght.
- 21 William Dougall.
- 22 Abraham Nelles.
- 23 Elisha Barber.
- 24 James Chambers.
- 25 Samuel Troup.
- 26 Christian Dedrick.
- 27 John Conrad.
- 28 Peter Woodley.

(Nothing but the red coats *were rec'd at this time.*)

#### **Expenses Recruiting in the Incorporated Militia. Bounty.**

|                           |       |       |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|
| Paid ——— Curtis .....     | N. Y. | £2.16 |
| Do John Beurs .....       |       | 1.12  |
| Do Albert Berdan .....    |       | 2. 8  |
| Do James Canada .....     |       | 3. 8  |
| Do Anthony Anderson ..... |       | 2. 8  |
| Do James Jewel .....      |       | 1.16  |
| Do George Mathew .....    |       | —     |

(From a memorandum book of Captain A. A. Rapelje in possession of Captain J. G. Spain, Port Dover.)

#### **Memo. of Captain Rapelje.**

##### **COUNTERFEIT TEN DOLLARS ARMY BILL.**

In these bills DIX is of a fuller letters, the I almost touching the X; the I under the stars is smaller, and in the word exchange the X appears like an R, it not having the back hair stroke—in other respects they are almost an exact imitation.

**Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe to Hon. Wm. D. Powell.**

**FORT GEORGE, 12th Feb'y, 1813.**

**MY DEAR FRIEND:—**

Your letter of the 6th inst. was an enigma to me and puzzled my poor head badly, till I received the packet by Capt. Derenzy. It is my intention to grant to the embodied militia all the allowances given to those below. I have declared it to those about me,

and have desired to be informed of all indulgences, gratuities and allowances whatever, which they may hear of being issued in the L[ower] P[rovince]. I have written to know if the allowance be 3 children for each woman or for each hundred. As the order is framed it is to be understood in the latter proportion, which is so very small that I think a mistake has crept in. I have announced my intention to issue a similar allowance on the presumption that H[is] E[xcellency] will not disapprove of my following his example.

I am teased with a pain in my head and recover but slowly. I hope, however, to set out for York on Monday or Tuesday.

P. S.—Impart the contents of this to the Chief Justice. I cannot write.

(From MS. in possession of G. M. Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

**Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe to Earl Bathurst.**

(No. 2.)

FORT GEORGE, 14th February, 1813.

MY LORD:—

I have the honor of transmitting the copy of a despatch I have received from Colonel Procter, commanding at Detroit, reporting his having defeated a corps of Americans which have advanced under the command of Brigadier-General Winchester to French Town on the River Raisin. The judgment and promptitude displayed by Colonel Procter and the gallant conduct of his little corps, entitle them to the highest commendation.

The enemy in this vicinity is quiet at present and does not appear to be numerous on h's frontier line.

This being on all accounts the season most convenient for assembling the Legislature of the Province, and there being some business of an important nature to be despatched, it is summoned to meet on the twenty-fifth of this month.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 317, p. 23.)

**General Dearborn to the Secretary of War.**

ALBANY, February 18, 1813.

SIR,—Your despatches of the 10th were received last evening. Nothing shall be omitted on my part in endeavoring to carry into effect the expedition proposed.

I fear the very large magazines of provisions on Lake Champlain will be unsafe unless a considerable part is removed at some distance from the store or a considerable force is assembled at

Burlington and vicinity by the time the two brigades shall move. Another motive for having a large force on that lake will be that of preventing the enemy sending almost his whole force from Lower Canada to Kingston as soon as our intentions shall be so far known as to afford satisfactory evidence of our intentions in relation to the conquest of Upper Canada, and unless an imposing force shall menace Lower Canada the enemy's whole force may be concentrated in Upper Canada and require as large a force to operate against them as would be necessary to operate towards Montreal. It may be advisable to draw out a body of New Hampshire Militia to serve for a short time in Vermont. You will judge of the expediency of such a measure, but I do not believe that there will be a sufficient body of new raised troops in season for taking the place of the two brigades.

I this day received a letter from Colonel Porter. Winchester had arrived at Niagara with such of his troops as had escaped the tomahawk, and they were crossing over on parole. He states that at the close of the action all those who by wounds or other causes were unable to march were indiscriminately put to death.

Such outrageous conduct will require serious attention, especially when British troops are concerned in the action.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 440.)

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**Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp to Colonel Claus.**

FORT ERIE, February 22, 1813.

DEAR SIR :—

It becomes my duty to inform you of the melancholy intelligence of Lieut. King's death. A flag of truce came from the other side this morning to mention this unpleasant news, which was to be expected, as Dr. Harford says, from the first time he saw the nature of his wound.

He has, however, had every medical assistance that it has been possible for him to have had, and I am sure that every officer here has done everything in his power to send over any comfort that he may have been in want of. The attention of the medical gentleman on the other side, Dr. Roberts, has been unremitting. I am particularly obliged to him for his exertions to save our poor friend's life.

Everybody has witnessed your friendly interference and kind exertions, but unfortunately we are deprived of a young man who was beloved by everybody who knew him. The service has lost an officer who, had it pleased Divine Providence to have saved his life, would have been an honor to his country.

I at this moment feel his loss most sensibly, and condole with you and those who have felt an interest in Lieut. King on an occasion where I am sure your goodness of heart will make a strong impression.

(From MSS. in possession of Miss Claus, Niagara, Ont.)

(From the Buffalo Gazette, 23rd February, 1813.)

Last Wednesday an express arrived from Lewiston bringing news that 160 sleighs, with troops on board, had passed up the river by Queenston, (as was said), for Fort Erie. This show of force, (if any force was there), may be considered only as a manœuvre on the part of the enemy, to prevent any military operations in this quarter, that they may present the whole disposable force of Upper Canada to oppose the movements of Harrison.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

**The Secretary of War to General Dearborn.**

WAR DEPARTMENT, February 24, 1813.

SIR,—Before I left New York and till very recently, since my arrival here, I was informed through various channels that a winter or spring attack upon Kingston was not practicable on account of the snow, which generally lays to the depth of two and sometimes three feet over all that northern region during those seasons. Hence it is that in the plan recently communicated it was thought safest and best to make the attack by a combination of naval and military means, and to approach our object not by directly crossing the St. Lawrence on the ice but by setting out from Sackett's Harbour in concert with and under convoy of the fleet. Later information differs from that on which this plan was founded, and the fortunate issue of Major Forsyth's last expedition shows at least that small enterprises may be successfully executed at the present season. The advice given in your letter of the 18th instant has a bearing also on the same point and to the same effect. If the enemy be really weak at Kingston and approachable by land and ice, Pike, (who will be a brigadier in a day or two,) may be put in motion from Lake Champlain by the Chateauguay route (in sleighs), and with the two brigades cross the St. Lawrence where it may be thought best, destroy the armed ships and seize and hold Kingston until you can join him with the other corps destined for the future objects of the expedition, and, if pressed by Prevost before such juncture can be effected, he may withdraw himself to Sackett's Harbor or other place of security on our side of the line. This would be much the shorter road to the object, and perhaps the

safer one, as the St. Lawrence is now everywhere well bridged and offers no obstruction to either attack or retreat. Such a movement will no doubt be soon known to Prevost, and cannot but disquiet him. The dilemma it presents will be serious. Either he must give up his western posts, or to save them he must carry himself in force and promptly to Upper Canada. In the latter case he will be embarrassed for subsistence. His convoys of provisions will be open to our attacks on a line of nearly one hundred miles, and his position at Montreal much weakened. Another decided advantage will be to let us into the secret of his real strength. If he be able to make heavy detachments to cover or to recover Kingston, and to protect his supplies, and after all maintain himself at Montreal and Lake Champlain, he is stronger than I imagined or any well authenticated reports make him to be.

With regard to our magazines, my belief is that we have nothing to fear, because, as stated above, Prevost's attention must be given to the western posts and to our movements against them. He will not dare to advance southwardly while a heavy corps is operating on his flank and menacing his line of communication. But, on the other supposition, they (the magazines) may be easily secured—first by taking them to Willsborough, or, second, to Burlington, or, third, by a militia call to protect them where they are. Orders are given for the march of the eastern volunteers, excepting Ulmer's regiment and two companies of axe men, sent to open the route to the Chaudiere.

The southern detachments will be much stronger than I had supposed. That from Philadelphia will mount up to nearly 1,000 effectives.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p—)

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### **The Secretary of War to Colonel Moses Porter.**

WAR DEPARTMENT, February 20, 1813.

SIR,—As the enemy's force and defences on the Canada side of the Niagara river are understood to be weak; as your force is respectable and supposed to be competent to a successful attack of these, and as the season has now furnished you with a bridge as well for retreat as for advance, it is thought advisable that you do not permit circumstances so favorable to escape without making a stroke on such points of the enemy's line as may be within your reach. If after feeling the enemy at Fort Erie you should find yourself able to extend your attack to Fort George it will be desirable; but of this you can judge best after your first experiment.



To an old soldier like yourself it is unnecessary to go more into detail. You know what you ought to do and you will do it. Communicate this letter to Lieutenant-Colonel Boerstler and accept the assurances of my respect and good wishes.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p.—)

**Captain Benjamin Forsyth to Colonel Macomb.**

February 22, 1813.

SIR,—I have only time to inform you that the enemy, with a very superior force, succeeded in taking Ogdensburg this morning about nine o'clock. They had about two men to our one, exclusive of Indians. Numbers of the enemy are dead on the field. Not more than twenty of our men killed and wounded. Lieutenant Beard is among the latter. I have made a saving retreat of about eight or nine miles. I could not get all the wounded off.

We have killed two of the enemy to one of ours killed by them. We want ammunition and some provisions sent on to us, also sleighs for the wounded.

If you can send me *three hundred men all shall be retaken* and Prescott, too, or I will lose my life in the attempt. I shall write you more particularly to-day.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p.—)

**From Major George Macdonnell of the Glengarry Light Infantry,  
Lieut.-Colonel Commanding in the Eastern District of  
Upper Canada, to Colonel Baynes.**

PRESCOTT, February 22, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honour to acquaint you for the information of His Excellency, the Commander of the Forces, that in consequence of His Excellency's commands to retaliate, under favorable circumstances, upon the enemy for his late wanton aggression on this frontier. I, this morning about seven o'clock, crossed the river St. Lawrence upon the ice and carried, after a little more than an hour's action, his position in and near the opposite town of Ogdensburg, taking eleven pieces of cannon and all his ordnance, marine, commissariat and quartermaster general's stores, 4 officers and 70 prisoners, and burning two armed schooners and two large gun-boats and both barracks. My force consisted of about 480 regulars and militia and was divided into two columns. The right, commanded by Captain Jenkins of the Glengarry Light Infantry Fencibles, was composed of his own flank company and about 70 militia, and, from the state of the ice and the enemy's position in the old

French fort, was directed to check his left and interrupt his retreat whilst I moved on with the left column, consisting of 120 of the King's Regiment, 40 of the Royal Newfoundland corps, and about 200 militia, towards his position in the town, where he had posted his heavy field artillery. The depth of the snow in some degree retarded the advance of both columns and exposed them, particularly the right, to a heavy cross fire from the batteries of the enemy for a longer time than I had expected, but pushing on rapidly after the batteries began to open upon us the left column soon gained the right bank of the river, under the direct fire of his artillery and line of musketry posted on an eminence near the shore. Moving on rapidly, my advance, consisting of the Royal Newfoundland and some select militia, I turned his right with the detachment of the King's Regiment, and after a few discharges from his artillery took them with the bayonet and drove his infantry through the town, some escaping across the Black River into the fort, but the majority fled to the woods or sought refuge in the houses, from whence they kept such a galling fire that it was necessary to dislodge them with our field pieces, which now came up from the bank of the river, where they had stuck on landing in the deep snow.

Having gained the high ground on the brink of the Black River opposite the fort, I prepared to carry it by storm, but the men being quite exhausted I procured time for them to recover breath by sending in a summons requiring an unconditional surrender. During these transactions Captain Jenkins had gallantly led on his columns, and had been exposed to a heavy fire of seven guns, which he bravely attempted to take with the bayonet, though covered with 200 of the enemy's best troops. Advancing as rapidly as the deep snow and the exhausted state in consequence of his men would admit, he ordered a charge and had not proceeded many paces when his left arm was broken in pieces by a grape shot, but still undauntedly running on with his men he almost immediately afterwards was deprived of the use of his right arm by a discharge of case-shot. Still heroically disregarding all personal consideration, he nobly ran on, cheering his men to the assault, till, exhausted by pain and loss of blood, he became unable to move. His company gallantly continued the charge under Lieut. Macaulay, but the reserve of militia not being able to keep up with them they were compelled by the great superiority of the enemy to give way, leaving a few on a commanding position and a few of the most advanced in the enemy's possession, nearly about the time that I gained the height above mentioned. The enemy hesitating to surrender I instantly carried his eastern battery, and by it silenced another which now opened again, and ordering on the advance the

detachment of the King's and the Highland company of militia, under Captain Eustace of the King's Regiment, he gallantly rushed into the fort, but the enemy retreating by the opposite entrance escaped into the woods, which I should have effectually prevented if my Indian warriors had returned sooner from a detached service on which they had that morning been employed. I cannot close this statement without expressing my admiration of the gallantry and self-devotion of Captain Jenkins, who has lost one arm and is in danger of losing the other. I must also report the intrepidity of Captain Lelievre of the Newfoundland Regiment, who had the immediate charge of the militia under Colonel Fraser; of Captain Eustace and the other officers of the King's Regiment, and particularly of Lieutenant Ridge of that corps, who very gallantly led on the advance, and of Lieut. Macaulay and Ensign Macdonnell of the Glengarry Regiment, as also Lieutenant Gangueben of the Royal Engineers and of Ensign McKay of the Glengarry Light Infantry, and of Ensign Kerr of the militia, each of whom had charge of a field piece, and of Lieutenant Impey of the militia, who has lost a leg. I was also well supported by Colonel Fraser and the other officers and men of the militia, who emulated the conspicuous bravery of all the troops of the line. I enclose a list of the killed and wounded. The enemy had 500 men under arms and must have sustained a considerable loss.

(Canadian Archives, Q, 121, p. 109.)

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**Return of Killed and Wounded in the Action of 22nd February, 1813, at Ogdensburg.**

Royal Artillery—One private killed.

8th or King's Regt.—One sergeant killed, two privates wounded.

Glengarry Light Infantry—Two privates killed; Lieut.-Colonel Macdonnell, Capt. Jenkins, Lieut. McKay, two sergeants and seven rank and file wounded.

Militia—Two rank and file killed; Captain J. Macdonnell, Lieuts. Empey, McLean and McDermott, one sergeant and fifteen rank and file wounded.

(Canadian Archives, Q, 121, p. 116.)

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## Return of Stores Captured at Ogdensburg on 22d February, 1813.

### Ordnance—

Brass—Two 9-pounders, two 6-pounders.

Iron—Two 12-pounders, four 6-pounders, one 4-pounder.

713 shot of all kinds.

672 stand of arms.

12 barrels of powder.

14 kegs ball cartridge.

1 stand of colors.

1 garrison flag.

(Canadian Archives, Q, 121, p. 117.)

### Extract from a Letter from Ogdensburg, Dated February 27th, 1813, in Poulson's American Daily Advertiser of Philadelphia.

Before 7 o'clock I saw a company of about 150 men crossing above our village, and another of about double that number below, directly across from Prescott towards the lower part of the village, which was the most vulnerable point. Some of our cannon were frozen fast. Only two or three shot were fired from the batteries. We lost two long iron 12-pounders taken at Saratoga, two long brass 9-pounders, two brass 6-pounders, four iron 6-pounders, two iron 4-pounders, four iron 9-pounder carronades, 800 muskets, 400 rifles, two tons of ammunition, one ton of ball, 1500 barrels of pork and a quantity of blankets. Many of the houses which were deserted were plundered by the rabble from Canada, who flocked over in abundance as soon as the place was taken. We lost 26 killed and wounded and about 60 prisoners. The British burnt the barracks and the two armed schooners, *Niagara* and *Dolphin*. We had more than 400 men, and lost four killed and two others have since died of their wounds.

(File in Philadelphia Library.)

### Colonel Macomb, Commanding at Sackett's Harbor, to Major-General Dearborn.

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 9 a. m., Feb. 23, 1813.

SIR,—I have this moment received an express from Captain Forsyth informing me of the enemy's having succeeded in driving him out of Ogdensburg yesterday morning at 9 o'clock. It was not done without a severe contest in which the enemy suffered very considerably. The enemy attacked in two columns of about 600 men each, at about eight o'clock in the morning. The Captain reports twenty men killed and wounded, among the latter Lieutenant Baird, and

from the coolness with which his riflemen fired that the enemy must have lost three times that number. The Captain retreated with all his force to Black Lake, about nine miles this side of Ogdensburg.

N. B.—The enemy had more than double the number under Captain Forsyth. There were no stores of any consequence at Ogdensburg.

(From Niles's Weekly Register, Baltimore, Md., 6th March, 1813, Vol. IV., p. 9.)

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### General Dearborn to the Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS, ALBANY, February 25, 1813.

SIR,—I this day received by express from Colonel Macomb the enclosed account from Major Forsyth. His known zeal for a small partisan warfare has induced me to give him repeated cautions against such measures as would probably produce such retaliating strokes as he would be unable to resist; but I fear my advice has not been fully attended to as could have been wished. He is an excellent officer, and under suitable circumstances would be of important service.

I have requested the Governor to order General Brown out, with three or four hundred of such militia as he can soonest assemble, to join Forsyth, and I have ordered General Pike, with four hundred of his command, to proceed in sleighs by what is considered the shortest and best route to the neighborhood of Ogdensburg or Sackett's Harbor. On his arrival at Potsdam or Canton or Russia he will be able to communicate with Brown or Forsyth, or both, and act with them as circumstances may require.

The affair at Ogdensburg will be a fair excuse for moving troops in that direction, and by this movement it will be ascertained whether the same route will be best in future; the distance by that route from Plattsburg to Sackett's Harbor is but little more than one-half of what it would be by the route proposed, and I am assured by a gentleman I can confide in that there will be no difficulty by that route.

Chauncey has not yet returned from New York. I am satisfied that if *he had arrived as soon as I had expected him we might have made a stroke at Kingston, on the ice*, but his presence was necessary for having the aid of the seamen and marines.

From a letter received this day from Colonel Porter at Niagara, it appears that the enemy were preparing to strike at Black Rock. I can give him no assistance.

## General Orders.

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT,  
MONTREAL, 25th Feb'y, 1813.

The Major-General commanding has much satisfaction in announcing to the troops in the Lower Province that he has received a report from Lieut.-Colonel Macdonell of the Glengarry Light Infantry, stating that in consequence of the wanton attack lately made by the enemy on the village of Brockville, it had been determined on to retaliate by an assault on his position at Ogdensburg. This took place in a gallant and spirited manner under command of that officer on the morning of the 22d inst., and was crowned with complete success after an action of an hour and a half, in which the enemy had about twenty killed and a great number wounded.

Lieut.-Colonel Macdonell reports his having taken possession of all the enemy's artillery with the exception of one piece, as well as naval, military and commissariat stores, and of his having destroyed the barracks and shipping. A detailed return of the stores has not yet been received, but eleven pieces of artillery and several hundred stands of arms had arrived at Prescott.

Lieut.-Colonel Macdonell speaks in high terms of the force under his command, particularly of the gallantry of Captain Jenkins of the Glengarry Light Infantry, who was severely wounded.

The Lieut.-Colonel also mentions the assistance which he received from Colonel Fraser, Lieut.-Colonel Fraser and all the officers of the militia, from Captain Eustace and officers of the King's Regiment, Captain Le Lievre of the Newfoundland Regiment, Lieutenant Macaulay and officers of the Glengarry Light Infantry, and from Lieutenant Gangueben of the Royal Engineers, Ensigns McKay of the Glengarry Regiment and Kerr of the militia, who directed the service of the field pieces, as well as of the spirited manner in which the advance was led on by Staff Adjutant Ridge.

List of killed and wounded in the attack on Ogdensburg, 22nd February, 1813:

Royal Artillery—One rank and file killed.

King's Regiment—One sergeant killed, twelve rank and file wounded.

Glengarry Light Infantry—Two rank and file killed; one lieutenant-colonel, one captain, one lieutenant, two sergeants, seven rank and file wounded.

Militia—Two rank and file killed; one captain, three subalterns, one sergeant, 15 rank and file wounded.

Total—One sergeant, six rank and file killed; one lieutenant-colonel, two captains, four subalterns, three sergeants and 38 rank and file wounded.

Names of officers wounded.—Glengarry Light Infantry—Lieut.-Colonel Macdonell, Capt. Jenkins (severely), Lieut. McKay. Militia—Captain J. Macdonell, Lieut. Empey (severely), Lieut. McLean and Lieut. McDermott.

J. ROWAN,  
Deputy-Assistant Adjutant General.

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### General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON, Feb. 23, 1813.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces has the satisfaction of announcing to the army in British North America the complete success of an attack made by Lieut.-Colonel Macdonnell of the Glengarry Light Infantry and the detachment stationed at Prescott, yesterday morning, on the enemy's position at Ogdensburg, which terminated in the capture of that place and of eleven pieces of artillery and all the ordnance and marine stores, provisions and camp equipage, and the destruction of two armed schooners and two gunboats. Such of the enemy's garrison as did not fly to the woods were made prisoners.

The conduct of every individual engaged, and which includes the whole of the troops, regular and militia, stationed at Prescott, appears to have been highly honorable to them.

The following officers are particularly noticed by Lieut.-Col. Macdonnell as having distinguished themselves: Captain Jenkins of the Glengarry Light Infantry, who, the Commander of the Forces laments to find, is severely wounded, as also Lieutenant Empey of the militia, who has lost a leg, and Lieutenant Powell of the King's Regiment, slightly wounded; Staff Adjutant Ridge of the King's Regiment, who led the advanced guard, and Lieutenant Macaulay of the Glengarry Light Infantry.

Lieut.-Colonel Macdonnell reports that he was well supported by Captain Eustace and the officers of the King's Regiment, by Colonel Fraser and Lieut.-Colonel Fraser and all the officers of the militia, as well as Captain Le Lievre of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment attached to the militia. The field artillery was well served by Ensigns McKay of the Glengarry Light Infantry and Kerr of the militia, and the good conduct of the Lieut. Ganguoben of the Royal Engineers is likewise particularly noticed.

The Commander of the Forces was induced to authorize this



attack, not by any means as an act of wanton aggression—the troops under his command having been ordered at all times to abstain from all acts of that nature—but as one of just and necessary retaliation for that which was recently made on the British settlement of Brockville by a party from Ogdensburg, and in consequence of frequent depredations from that garrison committed on the persons and property of His Majesty's subjects within its reach, and in announcing its result His Excellency feels much pleasure in publicly expressing his entire approbation of the gallantry and judgment with which it appears to have been conducted.

His Excellency directs the officers and men taken prisoners on this occasion to be sent to Montreal, there to remain until further orders. A salute to be fired immediately.

JOHN HARVEY, Lieut.-Col.,  
Dep. Adj. Gen.

**General Dearborn to the Secretary of War.**

(EXTRACT.)

ALBANY, February 26, 1813.

Having received information that Sir George Prevost was moving towards Upper Canada with considerable force, but not such as can be fully relied on, I have, however, ordered four hundred more of Pike's command to follow the first detachment without delay.

American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol I.

**From the Buffalo Gazette, 2nd March, 1813.**

HEALTH OF THE TROOPS.

*To the Editor of the Buffalo Gazette :*

SIR,—To correct an erroneous opinion which has been received by the public of the fatality of the disease which has prevailed among the troops, I am induced to give you for publication an abstract of the sick and wounded which have been received into the general hospital at Buffalo during the months of January and February :

| Received from            | ABSTRACT. |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| 5th U. S. Infantry ..... | 52        |
| 13th do .....            | 27*       |
| 12th and 20th do .....   | 48        |
| 23d do .....             | 12        |
| 2d Regt. Artillery.....  | 3         |
| 1st Light do .....       | 9         |
| Volunteers.....          | 8         |

\*16 of whom were wounded.

159

|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| Discharged..... | 69 |
| Died.....       | 11 |

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80 total died and discharged.

Remaining in hospital 79, many of whom are convalescent.

H. VAN HOEVENBERG,  
Asst. Hospital Surgeon.

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### A Recapture.

A gentleman from Erie states that Capt. Daniel Dobbin, naval officer of that place, has recently discovered the *Salina*, (the vessel he lost at Detroit when Hull capitulated), ice-bound about 10 miles from Erie. She was loaded with provisions, munitions of war, &c. Another vessel has been discovered in that quarter in a similar condition said to be the *Chippawa*, owned by Mr. Alexander of Fort Erie. Information has come from the Canada side which mentioned the departure of the vessels above mentioned from the islands of Sandusky, being driven out by the wind, and being surrounded by cakes of ice they were abandoned.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

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### Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.

(No. 46.)

NIAGARA, 27th February, 1813.

MY LORD :--

In my despatch No. 44, which I had the honour of addressing to Your Lordship on the 16th inst., I reported the close of the session of the Provincial Parliament and my intention of proceeding on the following day to visit the military posts in Upper Canada. I was particularly anxious to accomplish this object before the winter roads should become impassable by the thaw, which was daily apprehended, as I was in hopes that my presence at York would serve materially to check a disposition that had manifested itself in that province to cabal against the person administering the government of it, and might also be the means of restoring order to its militia force.

I accordingly left Quebec on the 17th, and passing through Montreal arrived at Prescott, the first military post in Upper Canada, on the 21st. I found myself within less than a mile of the enemy, posted at Ogdensburg, who had availed themselves of the frozen state of the St. Lawrence in that neighborhood to carry on repeated nocturnal enterprises against posts of communication which were occupied by the militia, and to commit frequent depredations

upon the persons and property of His Majesty's subjects, carefully selecting objects beyond the immediate support of a regular military force.

Being at that time busily engaged in the transport of ordnance and ordnance stores for the marine establishment on the lakes, and in supplying arms, accoutrements, clothing and ammunition for the militia of the Upper Province, I deemed it absolutely necessary in order to ensure the safe arrival of those essential articles at the places of their destination to dislodge the enemy from his position at Ogdensburg, to secure from interruption my line of communication with Lower Canada. I have now the honour of transmitting to Your Lordship the report which Major Macdonnell of the Glengarry Light Infantry Fencibles has made to me of the spirited manner in which he carried into execution my orders on this occasion.

I beg leave to call Your Lordship's attention to the distinguished merit of Captain Jenkins of the Glengarry Fencibles, who most gallantly led a part of that new levy into action. This excellent young man and very meritorious officer has lost his left arm and has his right severely wounded. Under these circumstances I must humbly recommend him to the favour and protection of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

It is but common justice to the merits of Lieut. Impey of the Dundas Militia who has lost a leg in this affair, which has afforded a fresh proof of the superiority of His Majesty's arms over those of the enemy, to interest Your Lordship that the same benevolence may be extended to him as he would have experienced had he belonged to the regular forces, he being a very respectable and worthy man, entirely dependent upon his bodily exertions in the cultivation of a farm for the support of himself and a young family.

Two stand of colors which were taken on this service by the detachment of the King's Regiment will be forwarded to Your Lordship by the first opportunity, to be laid at the feet of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 121, p. 106.)

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**Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.**

(No. 47.)

NIAGARA, 27th February, 1813.

MY LORD :—

On my return to Fort George from inspecting the troops on this frontier and viewing the works which have been erected between that place and Fort Erie, and from visiting the advanced positions which the solid state of the ice at the northern extremity

of Lake Erie had rendered indispensably necessary to establish to prevent those incomplete and open batteries from being surprised or taken in reverse, I was met by an officer with despatches from Detroit.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 121, p. 122.)

### General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, NIAGARA,  
1st March, 1813.

G. O.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces is pleased to grant the local and temporary rank of Colonel to Lieut.-Colonel Bruyeres, R. E., and to Lieut.-Colonel Myers, Deputy-Quartermaster General in the Province of Upper Canada.

His Excellency is pleased to approve and confirm the appointment of Lieut. Barnard, 41st Regiment, to act as Staff Adjutant of militia under the orders of Lieutenant-Colonel Bishopp, appointment to take place from the 3d November. Captain Lelievre, Royal Newfoundland Regiment, is appointed a deputy-assistant quartermaster general, and is directed to relieve Major Clerk, 49th Regiment, on the 24th inst. at York, in the duties of that department. Lieut. Taylor, 41st Regiment, is appointed Fort Major of Fort George, Niagara, vice Campbell, deceased.

The headquarters of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment is to be removed to York. Colonel Pearson will give the necessary orders and instructions for Major Heathcote proceeding with such proportion of the regiment now at Kingston as can be spared from the marine service at that port.

In consequence of the severe wounds of Lieut.-Colonel St. George, incapacitating him from the discharge of his duties as Inspecting Field Officer, Lieut.-Colonel Warburton is directed to proceed immediately to Amherstburg and place himself under the orders of Brig.-General Procter.

EDWARD BAYNES,  
A. G. N. A.

**District General Order.**

FORT GEORGE, 3rd March, 1813.

(No. 1.)

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces has been pleased to approve of a troop of Provincial Royal Artillery Drivers, to be attached to the Royal Artillery, being immediately raised upon the following establishment, viz.:—

|                          |            |          |
|--------------------------|------------|----------|
| 1 First Lieutenant.....  | at 9s      | per diem |
| 2 Second Lieutenants.... | at 8s      | do       |
| 1 Staff sergeant.....    | at 3s 2d   | do       |
| 3 Sergeants.....         | at 2s 2d   | each do  |
| 3 Corporals.....         | at 2s 0½d  | do do    |
| 1 Second do.....         | at 1s 10½d | do do    |
| 1 Rough Rider.....       | at 1s 3½d  | do       |
| 1 Smith and farrier..... | at 3s 2½d  | do       |
| 3 Shoeing smiths.....    | at 2s 1½d  | do do    |
| 2 Collar makers.....     | at 1s 10½d | do do    |
| 2 Wheelers.....          | at 1s 11½d | do do    |
| 2 Buglers.....           | at 1s 11½d | do do    |
| 100 Gunner drivers.....  | at 1s 3½d  | do do    |

The men raised for this troop are clearly to understand that their services are to extend if required to either of the Canadas, and to continue for a period of eighteen months, or during the war with the United States. Each man will receive a bounty of eighteen dollars in money and necessaries, and two dollars will be given to the bringer of each recruit.

The allowance of clothing to the men of the troop to be the same as is given to the corps of Royal Artillery Drivers.

J. HARVEY, Lt.-Col.,  
D. A. G.

**District General Order.**

FORT GEORGE, 3rd March, 1813.

(No. 2.)

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces has been pleased to approve of a company of Provincial Artificers, to be attached to the Engineer Department, being immediately raised, upon the following establishment, viz.:—

|                    |          |          |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| 1 Lieutenant.....  | at 10s   | per diem |
| 2 Sergeants.....   | at 4s 6d | do       |
| 2 Corporals.....   | at 3s 6d | do       |
| 50 Artificers..... | at 2s 6d | do       |

The men raised for this company are clearly to understand that their services are to extend if required to either of the Canadas, and to continue for a period of eighteen months, or during the war with the United States of America. Each man will receive a bounty of eighteen dollars and the same allowance of clothing as is given to the Provincial Drivers. Two dollars will be given to the bringer of each recruit.

J. HARVEY, Lieut.-Col.,  
and D. A. G.

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**District General Order.**

FORT GEORGE, 3rd March, 1813.

(No. 3.)

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces has been pleased to approve of a troop of Provincial Light Cavalry being immediately raised for the service of the Canadas for a period of eighteen months, or during the war with the United States of America, upon the following establishment and conditions:—

The troop to consist of

One captain.

One lieutenant.

One cornet.

One troop sergeant major.

One farrier.

Three sergeants.

Fifty privates.

Officers receiving infantry pay and cavalry allowances.

|                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Men subsisted at..... | 9d per day and rations |
|-----------------------|------------------------|

|                                       |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| For horses provided by the owner..... | 6d do do |
|---------------------------------------|----------|

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| For forage for horse..... | 1s 9d do |
|---------------------------|----------|

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Total..... 3s 0d per day

Each man will receive a bounty of twelve dollars as an outfit—clothing, arms, accoutrements and horse appointments will be found by the Government.

The men and horses to be approved by inspection, the latter to be valued at inspection, and will be paid for if killed or totally disabled in the actual performance of public service.

J. HARVEY, Lieut.-Col.  
and D. A. G.

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**General Dearborn to the Secretary of War.**

HEADQUARTERS, SACKETT'S HARBOR, March 2, 1813.

SIR,—Having been informed that Sir George Prevost had adjourned the Legislature at Quebec, assigning as a motive that His Majesty's services required his presence in Upper Canada, and having received certain information of his passing Montreal and having arrived at Kingston, I set out immediately for this place, having ordered the force at Greenbush and part of Colonel Pike's command in sleighs for this place. I arrived here in fifty-two hours. I am now satisfied, from such information as is entitled to full credit, that a force has been collected from Quebec, Montreal and Upper Canada of from six to eight thousand men at Kingston, and that we may expect an attack within forty-eight hours and perhaps sooner.

The militia have been called in and every effort will I trust be made to defend the post, but I fear neither the troops from Greenbush or Plattsburg will arrive in season to afford their aid. I have sent expresses to have them hurried on.

Commodore Chauncey has not arrived; he will be here tomorrow. The armed vessels have not been placed in the positions intended by the Commodore.

Our total force may be estimated at nearly three thousand of all descriptions.

Sir George Prevost is represented to be determined to effect his object at all events, and will undoubtedly make every effort in his power for the purpose.

We shall, I trust, give him a warm reception, but if his force is such as is expected, and should make an attack before our troops arrive from Greenbush and Plattsburg at Sackett's Harbor, the result may at least be doubtful.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I.)

Meadville, March 3.—We learn from some of the Kentucky prisoners, who left Malden on the 6th ult., that a number of the inhabitants of Detroit have been seized and sent under guard to Fort George. This measure, it is said, was taken in consequence of a suspicion that the inhabitants of that place intended to revolt with a view of seizing on the fort and delivering it up to General Harrison.

(Niles's Register, Vol. V., pp. 66-7.)



**Militia General Orders.**

HEADQUARTERS, YORK, 5th March, 1813.

It being an object of the first importance that the equipment of the militia that may be employed on service on the Niagara frontier should be as efficient as possible, His Honor Major-General Sheaffe is pleased to direct that the arms, accoutrements, blankets, great coats, packs, haversacks, canteens, &c., in possession of those not on duty shall be immediately collected and conveyed to the posts on the Niagara line for the inspection of Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp, Inspecting Field Officer of militia. Those in possession of the Lincoln and 2d York Regiment of Militia will be immediately delivered in at those posts which may be most convenient with regard to their relative situations to the respective regiments. Receipts for those articles in triplicate are to be prepared for the signature of the commanding officer of the post at which they may be delivered, or of the storekeeper or other person who may be appointed by the commanding officer to receive them. One receipt is to be transmitted to the Quartermaster-General, or in his absence to the Assistant Quartermaster-General, one to the comd'g officer of the Regiment, and one to be kept by the person employed to deliver the articles.

Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp will extend his inspection to the arms, accoutrements and all articles of equipment in the possession of the militia on duty on the Niagara frontier, and will take the necessary steps for having all the arms, accoutrements, &c., put immediately into a serviceable state, for which purpose Brigadier-General Vincent will give such orders as may be required. None of the articles above described are to be taken away from the frontier by any one who quits it unless it be for the purpose of going on duty.

By order,

ÆNEAS SHAW,

Adjt.-General Militia.

**Militia General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, YORK, 5th March, 1813.

His Honor Major-General Sheaffe has been pleased to appoint Francois Baby, Esquire, Assistant Quartermaster-General of militia for the western district, from the date of his nomination by Lieut.-Colonel St. George, to act in that department, (and subsequently approved by His Honor the Major-General Brock), with the pay

and allowances of a Captain and forage for one horse, and an allowance of one shilling and sixpence a day for a clerk.

By order,

ÆNEAS SHAW,  
Adjutant-General Militia.

### **General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON, March 5th, 1813.

G. O.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces has received the report of a Court of Enquiry ordered to assemble on the 18th October last, to investigate and report upon the circumstances of an attack made by the enemy on a brigade of boats below Prescott, on the 16th September, and His Excellency fully concurs in the opinion of the Court that there does not appear to have existed any ground whatever to impute any neglect or misconduct on that occasion to Major Heathcote or the officers or men of the detachment under his command.

EDWARD BAYNES,  
Adjt. General, N. A.

### **Lieut.-Colonel Bishopp to Major-General Sheaffe.**

FORT ERIE, March 7th, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that yesterday evening about three o'clock a deserter crossed from the American side and was chased within two miles of our shore by two officers and six privates of the United States army. Lieuts. Bullock and Gardiner and Ensign Martin of the 41st Regiment being on the spot took six men from the picquet and succeeded in securing the deserter, and taking prisoners two officers and four privates; the other two effected their escape to the American shore.

Much useful information will be collected from the deserter, who is a Sergeant-Major of the Fifth Regiment, United States Infantry.

I am very much obliged to Lieuts. Bullock and Gardiner and also to Ensign Martin for their zeal and activity on this occasion.

I have the honor to enclose the names of the officers taken prisoners, as also a return of their arms.

### **NAMES OF OFFICERS TAKEN PRISONERS, MARCH 6TH.**

Lieut. G. Clark, 5th Regt., U. States Infantry.

Ensign D. Polk, 12th Regt. do.

N. B.—Those officers are on their route from Fort George to Lower Canada.

R. H. S.

(Canadian Archives, C. 678.)

**Information given by Sergeant-Major Macfarlane of the 5th United States Regiment, who Deserted from Buffalo on the Evening of the 7th March, 1813.**

He states the American force to be as follows:—

|                       | Men. | Stations.     |
|-----------------------|------|---------------|
| 5th Regiment.....     | 500  | Buffalo       |
| 13th do .....         | 300  | 11 Mile Creek |
| 14th do .....         | 800  | Black Rock    |
| 12th and 20th do..... | 300  | Buffalo       |
| Total.....            | 1900 |               |

**ARTILLERY.**

4 6-pounders, Buffalo.

2 24-pounders }  
1 long 12-pounder } Black Rock.

A battery erecting at Black Rock to mount 19 guns behind piles of wood to conceal the work from the British.

The Americans expect shells from the British side and are much alarmed.

Twenty-two boats and 8 scows were cut out of the ice on the 6th inst. behind Squaw Island. (A true statement.)

J. B. GLEGG.

(Canadian Archives, C. 678.)

**His Honor the President's SPEECH**

At the opening of the present session of the Legislature—The answer of both Houses thereto—The Address of the House of Assembly to His Honor the President, congratulating him upon his accession to the Government, &c., with his Answer—The Address of the Inhabitants to His Excellency Sir GEORGE PREVOST, Bart., with his Answer.

York, 8th March, 1813.

On Thursday, the 25th February, His Honor ROGER HALE SHEAFFE, Esq., President, administering the Government of Upper Canada, and Major-General commanding His Majesty's Forces therein, accompanied by a numerous suite, proceeded to the Government buildings and opened the present Session of the Legislature,

when he was pleased to deliver the following Speech to both Houses :—

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :—*

It affords me the highest satisfaction that the first time I am called upon to address you in this place I have to offer you my cordial congratulations on the uniform success which has crowned His Majesty's Arms in this Province. The enemy has been foiled in repeated attempts to invade it. Three of his armies have been surrendered or completely defeated, and two important fortresses have been wrested from him.

In this Glorious Campaign, the Valour and Discipline of His Majesty's Regular Forces have been nobly supported by the Zeal and Bravery of our Loyal Militia.

Succeeding to the administration of the Government of the Province upon the lamented death of Major-General Brock who so nobly fell in its defence, it is grateful to me to announce to you the high sense of the Services of that able and Gallant Officer manifested by His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, who has been pleased in His Majesty's name to associate him to the most Honourable Military Order of the Bath.

I have also the gratification of communicating to you that His Royal Highness has been graciously pleased to signify "That the liberal appropriations which have been made by the Legislatures of both of the Canadas to meet the expenses of the occasion, and the determined spirit of resistance manifested by the Loyal Inhabitants, leave little apprehension on the result of any trial in which they may be called to prove their courage and perseverance."

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :

I shall direct to be laid before you the ordinary accounts of the Public Receipt and Expenditure, as also of the fund granted in the last Session to be disposed of in the Defence of the Province against His Majesty's enemies, and I feel confident that you will continue an appropriation for a similar purpose.

Honourable Gentlemen and Gentlemen :

Doubts have been suggested as to the sufficiency of the late crops to supply the probable wants of the Colony : it may be a proper object of your consideration to devise some means to control the export of grain and the consumption of it in distillation, should circumstances require it, during the recess of the Legislature.

The meritorious services of the militia, under privations which they unavoidably suffered, in an arduous and protracted campaign,

entitle them to the gratitude of the country and to your particular attention.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces has been pleased to order clothing for a considerable proportion of the Embodied Militia of this Province, but as this does not extend to all the necessities requisite to the soldier's comfort, I recommend to you the allowance of a sum to each volunteer, or draft from the militia to provide an outfit.

I think it proper to draw your attention to the continuation of certain laws of essential importance to this Province now about to expire, and to recommend to your consideration whether a revision of some parts of the Militia Act now in force may not be necessary to render it more efficient. I particularly request to be authorized to pay in advance, half-yearly, the annuity granted to widows and children and to persons disabled in the service.

You will learn with great satisfaction that the most vigorous measures have been adopted under the direction of the Commander of the Forces, and are now in operation, to strengthen the Provincial Marine and preserve the superiority on the lakes so essential to the safety of the Province.

It must be unnecessary for me particularly to recommend despatch in your deliberations. I will only add that you may rely on my hearty co-operation in any measure which may conduce to the welfare and security of the Province.

#### **ADDRESS of the Legislative Council in Answer to His Honor the President's SPEECH.**

*To His Honor SIR ROGER HALE SHEAFFE, Esquire, President, administering the Government of Upper Canada, and Major-General commanding His Majesty's Forces within the same :*

*May it please Your Honor :*

We, His Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Council of the Province of Upper Canada in Provincial Parliament assembled, offer to you our thanks for your speech at the opening of this Session of the Legislature.

We participate with Your Honor in the satisfaction which every loyal subject must feel from the uniform success which has crowned His Majesty's Arms in this Province. The armies of the enemy that have been defeated and the fortresses which have been taken are glorious proofs of the valour and discipline of His

Majesty's Regular Forces, nobly supported by the bravery of our loyal militia.

It is with the deepest regret that with Your Honor we lament the death of your illustrious predecessor, Major-General Brock, who gloriously fell in the defence of this Province, and whose achievements there have left impressions never to be effaced. We rejoice that the services of that able and gallant officer have been highly appreciated by His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, who has been pleased in His Majesty's name to associate him to the Most Honorable Military Order of the Bath.

It affords us additional satisfaction that His Royal Highness has been graciously pleased to signify that the liberal appropriations which have been made by the Legislature of both the Canadas and the determined spirit of resistance manifested by the loyal inhabitants, leave little apprehension of the result of any trial when they may be called upon to prove their courage and perseverance. We hope and trust that the sentiments expressed by His Royal Highness respecting us will be fully verified by our conduct.

Our warmest acknowledgments are due to His Excellency the Commander of the Forces for having ordered clothing for a considerable proportion of our embodied militia, and we are confident that this work of his humanity and kindness will still further excite that determined spirit of resistance which that body of men have hitherto so nobly manifested.

Highly sensible of the meritorious services of our militia, labouring under privations which they unavoidably have suffered in an arduous and protracted campaign, we will most heartily concur with the other branches of the Legislature in such measures as may best contribute to their comfort and administer to their necessities.

We will pay particular attention to the continuation of such laws as are of essential importance and are about to expire, and will carefully revise such parts of the Militia Act now in force as may be necessary to render it still more efficient and salutary.

It is with the greatest satisfaction that we learn that the most vigorous measures have been adopted, under the direction of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces, and are now in operation to strengthen the Provincial Marine and to preserve the superiority of the lakes so essential to our safety and protection.

A co-operation with Your Honor in such measures as may conduce to the welfare and security of the Province animates us with the hope that we shall be enabled to continue in that glorious career of victory in which we have begun, and by the blessing of

GOD defend our country against our enemies, and transmit our Laws, our Liberty and our Constitution to the latest posterity.

THOS. SCOTT,  
Speaker.

Legislative Council Chamber, }  
March the 2d, 1813. }

To which His Honor was pleased to make the following reply :  
*Honorable Gentlemen :*

Accept my thanks for your address ; it manifests a spirit of loyalty and patriotism which cannot fail to be highly gratifying.

I feel confident of your cheerful aid and concurrence in whatsoever can promote the public welfare, and that your attention will be particularly directed to those measures which can most effectually contribute towards the security of the Province.

2d March, 1813,

**ADDRESS of the House of Assembly in Answer to His Honor the President's SPEECH.**

*To His Honor ROGER HALE SHEAFFE, Esquire, President administering the Government of the Province of Upper Canada, and Major-General commanding His Majesty's Forces therein :*

*May it please Your Honor.*

We, His Majesty's most dutiful and Loyal Subjects, the Commons of Upper Canada in Provincial Parliament assembled, request Your Honor to accept of our humble thanks for your most gracious Speech.

We participate in the satisfaction expressed by Your Honor at having it in your power, on the first time you are called upon, to address us, to offer your cordial congratulations on the uniform success which has crowned His Majesty's Arms in this Province.

That the enemy has been foiled in his machinations against it ; that three of his armies have been surrendered or completely defeated, and that two important fortresses have been wrested from him are to us sources of the highest satisfaction.

It is with pride and exultation we learn that the valour of His Majesty's Regular Forces, (so nobly displayed in the defence of this Province), have been ably supported by the zeal and bravery of our militia, and we feel confident that while the enemy shall continue his hostile attempts the exertions of our regular and militia forces,

under the direction of Your Honor, will be attended with uniform success.

The death of our late most gallant and lamented President, Major-General BROCK, who so nobly fell while contending with a superior force of our enemies in defence of this Province, has excited in us feelings of sorrow and regret, and while we lament our inability to bestow on his great and distinguished merits any other reward than our praise, we learn with the greatest satisfaction the high sense of the services of that able and gallant officer manifested by His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, who has been pleased in His Majesty's name to associate him to the Most Honorable Military Order of the Bath.

We are happy to perceive the favorable impressions which the liberal appropriations of the Legislature of the two Canadas and the determined resistance manifested by the loyal inhabitants have made on His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and with him we think that little apprehension need be entertained of the result of any trial in which they may be called to prove their courage and perseverance.

When the Public Accounts are laid before us we will pay that attention to them that the nature of the subject requires, and shall always be happy to afford every means in our power to assist in the defence of the Province.

We are much concerned to learn that doubts have been suggested as to the sufficiency of the late crop to supply the probable wants of the Colony if the exportation and distillation of grain be uncontrolled. We shall give to such a subject of so much moment our most serious consideration, and shall endeavor to provide such remedy as the emergency may appear to require.

We are perfectly sensible of the meritorious services of the militia of this Province, and although they must in a contest like the present unavoidably suffer privations, still, when they consider the great object for which they contend, they will be convinced that their sufferings are inevitable. Their situation demands our most serious attention.

We feel highly gratified to learn that His Excellency the Commander of the Forces has been pleased to order clothing for a considerable proportion of the militia, and we will be happy to contribute everything in our power towards their comfort.

We shall direct our attention to the Laws about to expire, and shall endeavor to make such amendments to the Militia Act now in force as may be necessary to render it more efficient.

Your Honor's request to be enabled to pay in advance half-yearly the annuity granted to widows and children and persons



disabled in the service is a proof of the humanity so conspicuous in your character, and it will be highly pleasing to us to comply with Your Honor's request.

We learn with the highest satisfaction that the most vigorous measures have been adopted under the direction of the Commander of the Forces, and are now in operation to strengthen the Provincial marine and preserve the superiority on the lakes so essential to the safety of this Province.

We are perfectly sensible that despatch in our deliberations is at this juncture particularly necessary, and we beg leave to assure Your Honor that we have the utmost confidence in Your Honor's administration and in your well known exertions for the defence of the Province and the safety and prosperity of its inhabitants.

ALLAN MCLEAN, Speaker.

Commons House of Assembly,  
York, 26th February, 1813.

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To which His Honor was pleased to make the following reply :  
GENTLEMEN,—

I thank you for this Address, so cordially responsive to my own sentiments.

The confidence you express in the successful resistance to any future attempts of the enemy on this Province is a further pledge of the loyalty and bravery of His Majesty's subjects, and which, with the assurance you give of contributing every means in your power to aid them in its defence, cannot but be highly satisfactory.

27th February, 1813.

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Lieut. Wm. Hamilton Merritt to Miss Catharine R. Prendergast,  
at Lansingburgh, N. Y.

NIAGARA, February, 1813.

Our winter has been gay for them who chuse to enjoy it. We had a splendid assembly last night, given by Col. Myers, Com'g Officer here. I never see so many slays in all my life as this winter. Brigades of 50 and 60 every week from Lower Canada, with stores and troops. Every exertion has been made for the defence of this frontier. The coldest weather never stops our workmen. You would be astonished to see the alteration that has taken place on the lines since you left it. Niagara has been battered pretty well. The Amer[icans] endeavored by every means to set

it on fire, but they were disappointed by the activity of its inhabitants. The court house is burned only. I wish the ensuing spring was over. I do not fear the event, as we will always remain victorious *with the help of God*, but to think of losing the lives of so many brave fellows to no purpose only to gratify the ambition of *Mr. Madison* or *Bonaparte*. We sent over five hundred prisoners again yesterday. Gen. Winchester and staff remain here for a time. We have been very quiet here for awhile past. I would be pleased to give you an ac[coun]t of the proceedings last year, but I hope you are not highly interested in the war, so will forbear until some future and better opportunity. The country has been the liveliest place, latterly every family moved back. There is two families in your former mansion, and one or two in every house on the 12. All the young men from that place are in a chosen company of picked men. James Dittrick has distinguished himself in a conspicuous manner. John Turney has been down, but would much rather have been home. The most of the young lads in this place think themselves old veterans; having been so fortunate in every encounter as yet, they think it is impossible to be beaten.

It is quite different with the female part of the community. After any alarm the place would be filled with women—everyone coming to see if the object of their affection was safe. I am sorry to say we have lost some very valuable men, more by sickness tho' than by the sword.—Col. Johnson and Thomas Butler. I mentioned in my last, at Fort Erie, the death of Mrs. Boyd and many more.

You will be surprised to hear of Joseph Willcocks changing about and becoming a zealous loyalist. He has behaved very well on all occasions and so have all his party, altho' they are trusted with no office whatever. I fear I have troubled you too much, but I must dabble a little in politics.

(From the Merritt MSS.)

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**ADDRESS from the House of Assembly to His Honor the President,**

Congratulating him upon his Accession to the Government and his success in Repelling the Attempts of the Enemy upon this Province.

*To His Honor ROGER HALE SHEAFFE, President administering the Government of the Province of Upper Canada and Major-General commanding His Majesty's Forces therein, &c., &c.:*

May it please Your Honor:

We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Upper Canada in Provincial Parliament assembled, deeply impressed with the highest sentiments of respect towards your person, beg leave to approach Your Honor at a juncture so interesting and important to the welfare of this part of His Majesty's dominions, and to congratulate Your Honor upon your accession to the supreme executive authority of the Civil as well as the Military administration of the Government of this Province; at the same time we cannot refrain from deploring the event which deprived this much favored colony of one of its brightest ornaments and our Mother Country of an invaluable officer in the death of your predecessor. It affords us, however, a consolation and alleviates the poignancy of our sorrow for the loss of so esteemed a Chief, that in his successor those qualities are found which have been so successfully exerted by him to repel an inveterate invading enemy, conciliate the affections of all and maintain the true spirit and character of Englishmen.

We are not insensible to the many arduous and perplexing difficulties which have pressed upon Your Honor in civil as well as military concerns, and it is with the most lively heartfelt satisfaction we express our sincere conviction of the wisdom and policy with which you have performed them since the reins of government devolved upon you, and in a particular manner we feel it a duty incumbent upon us, as the Representative Body of this Colony, to set forth to the people at large our warmest approbation of the military skill displayed by Your Honor on every occasion, and the great solicitude always manifested on your part to mitigate the hardships to which our loyal and brave militia were inevitably exposed, and further to state to Your Honor that we feel the strongest and most unlimited confidence in your future exertions of energy and of conduct to preserve to us unimpaired the happy constitution under which we have so long lived and so long been prosperous.

That your efforts will be seconded by every individual in this Province to the utmost of his ability, we can have no reason to entertain a doubt, and that continued and ultimate success may crown them under the peculiar guidance of Divine Providence is our most sincere, most ardent hope, since thus we shall be enabled to transmit to our Posterity in their purity those invaluable rights, privileges and immunities which our ancestors bled to establish, and so cherished by their descendants who know so well how to appreciate as to enjoy rational and solid freedom.

ALLAN MACLEAN, Speaker.

Commons, House of Assembly, 3d March, 1813.

To which His Honor was pleased to make the following reply :

GENTLEMEN,—

I receive with the most lively sensibility your congratulations on my having succeeded to the Civil and Military administration of the Government of this Province. I condole with you on the event which you so justly deplore, having served too long at the side of my able and gallant predecessor not to have learnt how to estimate his high worth and to be sensible of the irreparable loss which the Province sustained in being deprived of his services at so important a juncture.

Accept, Gentlemen, my warmest thanks for the expression of your favorable sentiments towards me, and for the confidence you repose in me. By the aid of a kind Providence the designs of the enemy have hitherto been baffled, and I trust that it will still continue to grant its support to us and to smile on the efforts of a brave and loyal people, who are engaged in the noble task of resisting unjust aggression and of struggling to protect their families and their farms and to preserve for themselves and for their posterity not only their property but all those precious and inestimable privileges which are enjoyed in this Province as a member of the British Empire. May their exertions in so glorious a cause be crowned with success, and may the blessings of Civil Liberty, Social Order and Happiness flow through successive ages to your descendants, pure and uninterrupted.

5th March, 1813.

To Lieutenant-General Sir GEORGE PREVOST, Bart., Commander of the Forces, &c., &c.. &c.

*May it please Your Excellency :*

We, the magistrates and other inhabitants of the town of York, are happy in having an opportunity of paying that respect which

we owe to Your Excellency, and of offering our most sincere thanks and acknowledgements for the attention you have been pleased to shew to this Province.

The pride and pleasure which we feel from the behaviour of our gallant militia is greatly heightened when we consider that their conduct is honored with your approbation, and that you are pleased to testify your sense of their services in ordering clothing for a considerable proportion of their number, an act of benevolence and humanity which will make a deep and lasting impression on their minds and stimulate them to preserve that high character which they have already acquired. But we should indeed be much wanting to Your Excellency as well as to ourselves if we did not on this occasion with gratitude acknowledge the obligations which this Province lays under to the valor and discipline of His Majesty's regular forces, whose courage and conduct on the most trying emergencies have done honor to the name and to the character of a British soldier.

We are particularly gratified (and offer our most sincere thanks and acknowledgments) for the vigorous exertions which have been made, and are still carrying on towards the strengthening of our Provincial Marine, by order of Your Excellency, fully convinced that to maintain a superiority on the lakes is an object of the first importance to this Province.

Thankful for that success which has hitherto crowned His Majesty's arms under your command, we earnestly wish for its continuance, entertaining the pleasing hope that by our own conduct and the exertions of your brave defenders we, in this Colony, by the blessing of God, may long remain, under the protection of our Parent State, a free, brave and loyal people.

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To which His Excellency was pleased to return the following answer :

*To the Magistrates and other Inhabitants of the Town of York :*

GENTLEMEN,—

I am highly sensible of your sincere thanks and acknowledgments for the attention which you consider me to have evinced to the welfare and preservation of this valuable Province.

Not only my duty but also the express commands of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent govern my conduct in regulating and improving those objects which excite your approbation, and in expressing the high respect I entertain of the gallant and patriotic behaviour of your militia I express the sentiments of your Sovereign and your fellow subjects throughout His Majesty's empire, who

admire and applaud the exertions of a free, brave and loyal people, manfully contending to preserve for themselves and their children the fostering protection of a virtuous, wise and powerful State.

Government House, York, Upper Canada, March 3d, 1813.

(From printed copies in the Talbot Papers.)

(From the Buffalo Gazette, March 9th, 1813.)

On the 22d ult. the British 8th Regiment, having previously come up from Montreal in sleighs, passed over at Ogdensburg, attacked Capt. Forsyth and captured 11 pieces of cannon, burnt 2 schooners, 2 small armed boats, a quantity of marine stores, pork, flour and whiskey, burnt the fort, barracks and returned. This account was sent by the British from Fort George to Colonel McFeeley at Fort Niagara. They stated that the enterprise was only a retaliatory measure, that *private* property would be paid for.

A salute was fired at Fort George on Sunday on account of this affair, and on Monday following a salute was fired at Black Rock for the victory over the *Java*.

On Saturday last while a lieutenant, an ensign and 8 privates, belonging to the regular army, were in pursuit of a deserter who was making for the Canada shore on the ice, five sleighs with troops on board passed up from Fort Erie, pursued and took the party in pursuit of the deserter, only one making his escape.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

General Dearborn to the Secretary of War.

SACKETT'S HARBOR, March 9, 1813.

SIR,—I have not yet had a visit from Sir G. Prevost. His whole force is concentrated at Kingston, probably amounting to six or seven thousand, about three thousand of them regular troops. The ice is good and we expect him every day, and every measure for preventing a surprise is in constant activity. The troops from Greenbush, (upwards of 400,) have arrived. I have heard nothing from Pike; he should have been here yesterday. I have sent three expresses to meet him; neither has returned. I have suspicions of the express employed by the Quartermaster-General to convey the orders to Pike; the earliest measures were taken for conveying a duplicate of his orders; I hope to hear from him to-day. His arrival with eight hundred good troops would be very important at this time. The enemy are apprised of his movement.

I begin to entertain some doubts whether Sir George will ven-

ture to attack us, but shall not relax in being prepared to give him a decent reception.

I should feel easier if Pike should arrive in season. I am in want of officers of experience. My whole force, exclusive of seamen and marines, who will be confined to the vessels and have no share in the action until my force shall be worsted, amounts to nearly 3000 exclusive, 450 militia at Brownsville and on the road leading from Kingston by land. Within two or three days I may have 300 more militia from Rome and Utica.

The ice will not probably be passable more than from six to ten days longer; it is not usually passable after the 15th of March. This unexpected movement of the enemy will effectually oppose the movements contemplated on our part, and I shall not think it advisable to order General Chandler to move at present. As soon as the fall of this place shall be decided we shall be able to determine on other measures. If we hold this place we will command the lake and be able to act in concert with the troops at Niagara, while Chandler's brigade with such other troops as may assemble in Vermont may induce a return of a considerable part of those troops that have left Lower Canada.

When I ordered Pike to move I directed General Chandler to have the provisions at Plattsburg moved to Burlington. There was but a small proportion of our magazines at Plattsburg; they are principally at Burlington and Whitehall.

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#### General Dearborn to the Secretary of War.

(Extract.)

SACKETT'S HARBOR, March 14, 1813.

From the most recent and probable information I have obtained I am induced to believe that Sir George Prevost has concluded that it is too late to attack this place. He undoubtedly contemplated a *coup-de-main* against the shipping here. All the apprehension is now at Kingston. Sir George has visited York and Niagara and returned to Montreal. Several bodies of troops have lately passed up from Montreal, but such precautions have been taken to prevent their number being ascertained as to render it impossible to form any accurate opinion of their forces or to imagine very nearly what they amount to. From various sources, I am satisfied that they are not in sufficient force to venture an attack on this place, knowing, as they do, that we have collected a fine body of troops from Greenbush and Plattsburg, and that the militia have been called in. We are probably just strong enough on each side to defend, but not in sufficient force to hazard an offensive movement. The difference of

attacking and being attacked, as it regards the contiguous posts of Kingston and Sackett's Harbor, cannot be estimated at less than three or four thousand men, arising from the circumstance of militia acting merely on the defensive. I have ordered General Chandler, with the 9th, 21st and 25th regiments, to march for this place; Clark's regiment and a company of artillery to be left at Burlington for the present, where the regiment will be filled in a few weeks. I have ordered the recruits for the three regiments that will march for this place to be sent to Greenbush, and Colonel Larned is ordered to receive them with Backus's dismounted dragoons and other detachments from Pittsfield.

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**General Dearborn to the Secretary of War.**

(Extract.)

SACKETT'S HARBOR, March 16, 1813.

It was yesterday unanimously determined in a council of the principal officers, including Commodore Chauncey, that we ought not, under existing circumstances, to make an attempt on Kingston *before the naval force can act*. The harbors in this lake will probably not be open so as to admit of the vessels being moved until about the 15th of April.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. 1.)

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**Lieut.-Colonel Myers to Colonel Baynes.**

YORK, 10th March, 1813.

SIR,—I am directed by Major-General Sheaffe to acquaint you that in consequence of a letter which he received from the Military Secretary from Kingston, and of the arrival here of Capt. McDouall from Amherstburg, who states that from your communication by him to Brigadier-General Procter he is in hourly expectation of the portion of the 41st Regiment, which will make up five companies thereof, (72 privates), the grenadier company of that corps with its complement of officers and non-commissioned officers has been ordered to proceed to him in light marching order without delay. The heavy baggage will follow with the headquarters on the opening of the navigation.

From the conversation I had with His Excellency the Commander of the Forces and yourself upon this subject, I had understood that no part of this arrangement was to take place until the navigation did open, however, under all circumstances, it may prove of advantage to the service to push forward the grenadiers, and I trust it will meet with His Excellency's approbation.



The Major-General, understanding by Mr. Freer's letters that the headquarters and a proportion of the Newfoundland Regiment had been directed to move from Kingston for this post, he has given orders to Colonel Pearson to send them on without loss of time. He will, by their arrival here, be enabled to replace in numbers the 41st grenadiers. The line from Fort George to Fort Erie can but ill spare even the temporary loss of them ; in the meantime the best distribution possible of what is left will be made.

(Canadian Archives, C. 678.)

### **General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL, 10th March, 1813.

G. O.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces has received the commands of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent to convey to Major-General Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe His Royal Highness's entire approbation of the distinguished services of that officer, and the zealous exertions and exemplary courage displayed by the troops under his command in the attack made by the enemy at Queenston on the 13th October last.

As a testimony of His Royal Highness's sense of Major-General Sheaffe's services, he has been graciously pleased to confer upon him the title of Baronet of the United Kingdom, and the brevet rank of Major to Captain Holcroft of the Royal Artillery and Captains Dennis and Williams of the 49th Regiment, who were particularly mentioned on that occasion.

His Royal Highness is fully aware of the severe loss which His Majesty's service has experienced in the death of Major-General Brock.

His Royal Highness has also been graciously pleased to express his regret at the loss which the Province of Upper Canada must experience by the death of the Attorney-General, Lieutenant-Colonel Macdonnell, whose zealous co-operation with Sir Isaac Brock will reflect lasting honor on his memory.

J. ROWAN,

D. A. A. G.

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**Earl Bathurst to Sir George Prevost.**

DOWNING STREET, 12th March, 1813.

(No. 24.)

SIR,—I have had the honor of submitting to the consideration of the Prince Regent your several despatches from No. 22 to 31 inclusive.

The additional proof which those despatches afford of the gallantry and discipline of that portion of His Majesty's troops under your command is most gratifying to His Royal Highness, nor does His Royal Highness either overlook or undervalue the distinguished co-operation of the militia of the Canadian Provinces, or the general zeal by which the whole population appears to have been animated in repelling the invasion of the enemy.

The faint attempt made by the American army on the frontiers of Lower Canada, terminating as it has done in a disastrous retreat, appears to me sufficiently to indicate the Upper Province as that against which their principal attempts will be hereafter made. Under this impression I cannot but express a hope that you may have been enabled to make such detachments to the Upper Province as to meet the corresponding efforts of the enemy.

I have lately had occasion to communicate to you the various measures which have been adopted for affording you a reinforcement of troops early in the spring. To those which I mentioned in my despatches of the 12th January and the 11th February, of which copies are herewith enclosed, I have now to add that 550 men of the 19th Dragoons have been ordered for service in Canada, and will sail from Cork in company with the infantry as per margin\* about the 20th instant. I am not without hopes that you may, previous to their arrival, have collected a supply of horses requisite for this number of men, but I have thought it nevertheless expedient to direct the embarkation of 150 horses from Cork for the service of the officers and non-commissioned officers of the regiment, in order to obviate the difficulties which you may find in mounting those ranks immediately for service in the field.

I have to state with great regret that the long continuance of westerly winds has prevented the transports intended for the conveyance of the two regiments from Barbadoes to Canada from proceeding to the West Indies, and that you must consequently be prepared to expect a delay in their arrival at Quebec corresponding to that which has so unfortunately taken place in their departure from this country. One of the regiments, from the Mediterranean, which I mentioned in my former despatch, is, however, arrived at Cadiz, and will at the end of this month be on the passage to the St. Lawrence. The other regiment, from Malta, may also be looked for at an early period; and as I learn from Sir J. C. Sherbrooke that you have ordered the 8th Regiment and a company of artillery from Halifax, I trust that you will on the breaking up of the frost be as secure from any serious apprehensions for the safety of either Province as you would have been if the reinforcements from the

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\*41st Foot, 2d Batt. 500; detachments, 654.

West Indies had arrived in Canada, as was intended at a more early period of the year.

As the arrival of all the intended reinforcements will have the effect of placing under your orders a considerable number of empty transports, it will be necessary that you should, with a view to the general convenience of the service, direct them to return to this country by the first convoy unless it should occur to you that their detention could be of any material advantage.

The necessity of maintaining that naval superiority on the lakes which in your despatch No.— you described yourself as possessing, has at no time been lost sight of by His Majesty's Government, and I am happy to find that the measures which they have adopted already are so much in unison with those recommended by you. The *Woolwich troopship* is now at the point of sailing for North America with the officers and seamen specified in the margin.\* She has also on board such naval stores as are considered necessary for the equipment of the two new vessels building on Lake Ontario. The carronades required for these vessels, together with the barrack, marine and batteaux stores, for which a requisition had been previously received, are now shipping on board a transport which will proceed with the first fleet. I fear that the want of detailed explanation as to the size or description of those vessels may occasion the omission of some perhaps very necessary articles. But I trust this deficiency will be obviated by the directions which have been given to the dockyard at Halifax to afford you on all occasions such assistance as is consistent with the means placed at their disposal. The inconvenience of giving to the Quartermaster General the superintendence of the Naval Department has been obviated by the appointment of Sir James Yeo as commanding officer on the lakes, who will be in communication with Sir J. B. Warren and the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty on all subjects connected with that branch of the service. It will, however, be necessary that the storing and victualling of the vessels employed on the lakes should be conducted as heretofore. In order to remove any doubt which might otherwise exist respecting the nature and limits of the command to be exercised by the naval officer on the lakes, it is my intention to transmit to you by the earliest opportunity a copy of the instructions which will be given on this subject to Sir James L. Yeo, and have only to express my confident expectation that as he is to be placed by these instructions as much under your control as is consistent with the rules of the department under which he is now immediately acting, so you will find him always ready effectually to forward any objects which you

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\*1 Commodore, —Captains, —Lieutenants, 10 Midshipmen, 400 seamen.

may have in view for the defence of the provinces under your charge.

The requisition contained in your despatches No. 23 and 29 had already been fulfilled by the order which had been previously given for forwarding the first fleet to Quebec, clothing, accoutrements and camp equipage complete for 10,000 men. The directions which you have given as to the description of clothing required will be immediately attended to.

Equal attention has been paid to the demand of the Commissary General, as stated in your despatch No. 25. I cannot, however, avoid regretting that the Commissary General should on the eve of a deficient supply of flour in Canada have thought it prudent to export so considerable a quantity of that article to the Peninsula at the close of last year, and I must impress upon you the importance of deriving as far as possible from other quarters than Great Britain such further supplies as may be required for the subsistence of the troops or the inhabitants.

(Canadian Archives, C. 678, p. 123.)

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**Captain A. Gray to Sir George Prevost.**

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
MONTREAL, 12th March, 1813.

SIR,—Agreeable to Your Excellency's instructions I have the honour of submitting my opinion as to the most beneficial mode of employing the naval officers now serving on the lakes, after the arrival of the reinforcement expected from England.

On Lake Erie little alterations appear to be necessary, as the officers in that division of our marine have uniformly done their duty. But as the establishment will have to be augmented in consequence of the new ship building at Amherstburg, I should beg leave to recommend Captain Hall for the new ship and Lieutenant Purvis to be appointed 1st Lieutenant into the *Queen Charlotte*, leaving the other officers to retain their present command, viz.: Lieut. Barvis to the *Lady Prevost* and Lieut. Rollette to the *Hunter*.

I am induced to submit this arrangement from the favorable opinion I entertain of Captain Hall as an officer, as I am fully persuaded that his being retained at the head of this division of the marine will prove beneficial to the service.

I am induced from similar motives to submit the name of Lieut. Purvis as the 2d officer on Lake Erie, as local seniority ought to have no weight in the present arrangements.

On Lake Ontario the good of the service calls for a radical

*change in all of the officers*, as I do not conceive there is one man of this division fit to command a ship of war. A selection, however, may be made from the naval officers now employed and incorporated with the new establishment, as their local knowledge renders their services as sailing masters and pilots indispensable. I should therefore beg leave to submit that Captain Earle may be appointed sailing master to the *Sir Isaac Brock*, Lieuts. Fish, Smith and Richardson to the new ship building at Kingston, the *Royal George*, and the new schooner laid down at Kingston, the junior and petty officers to be classed according to their merits. Lieuts. Simpson and Govereau I do not include in this arrangement, as it is my opinion that they should be *dismissed the service* as soon as the new establishment of the marine is carried into effect; sufficient grounds for the opinion now given may be found in the transactions of the last campaign, exclusive of what has fallen under my own observation in my repeated inspections of the Provincial Marine. It may be observed that Captain Earle is equally liable to the censure passed on the other commanders of the armed vessels on Lake Ontario, and that he also should be dismissed. I should therefore state my reasons for recommending that he may be retained in the service. I am ready to admit that his conduct as an officer has been much and justly censured for want of spirit and energy, both in relation to his conduct before the enemy and in the discipline and interior economy of his ship. But as he is a good private character and is an experienced pilot for the lake and perfectly acquainted with all the duties of a sailing master, I conceive it more conducive to the good of the service to reduce him to that situation than to dismiss him at the present moment.

There will therefore remain the ships of war on Lake Ontario only to be provided with commanders and a 2d officer if they can be procured, viz. :

Officers required upon Lake Ontario in addition to the present establishment :

|                                            |   |                         |
|--------------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| The <i>Sir Isaac Brock</i>                 | } | 1 Post Captain.         |
|                                            |   | 1 1st Lieutenant.       |
| The <i>Royal George</i>                    | } | 1 Master and Commander. |
|                                            |   | 1 First Lieutenant.     |
| <i>Moir</i> , 1 First Lieutenant.          |   |                         |
| New schooner building                      | } | 1 First Lieutenant.     |
| at Kingston                                |   |                         |
| <i>Prince Regent</i> , 1 First Lieutenant. |   |                         |
| <i>Gloucester</i> , 1 Lieutenant.          |   |                         |
| Ship building at                           | } | 1 Master and Commander. |
| Kingston                                   |   | 1 First Lieutenant.     |

Total officers required in addition to the present establishment :

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Post Captain.....           | 1 |
| Masters and Commanders..... | 2 |
| Lieutenants.....            | 7 |

The second lieutenants and petty officers may be selected from the present establishment, or may be procured in the Canadas.

Estimate of establishment required for the lakes :

|                                         | No. |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|
| <b>Lake Erie.</b>                       |     |
| { New ship building at Amherstburg..... | 60  |
| { <i>Queen Charlotte</i> .....          | 50  |
| { <i>Lady Prevost</i> .....             | 35  |
| { <i>Hunter</i> .....                   | 25  |
| Total on Lake Erie.....                 | 170 |
| <b>Lake Ontario.</b>                    |     |
| { <i>Sir Isaac Brock</i> .....          | 130 |
| { New ship at Kingston.....             | 90  |
| { <i>Royal George</i> .....             | 80  |
| { <i>Moir</i> .....                     | 45  |
| { New schooner.....                     | 45  |
| { <i>Prince Regent</i> .....            | 35  |
| { <i>Gloucester</i> .....               | 20  |
| Total on Lake Ontario.....              | 445 |

Total seamen wanted on both lakes..... 615

Deduct seamen now on the lakes, about..... 150

Total seamen wanted to man the ships of war in Upper Canada 465

In the above estimate the marines are not included, as it is now proposed to employ the Newfoundland Regiment in this service.

A. GRAY,

Acting Dep'y Quartermaster General.

**Comparative Statement of the British and American Forces upon the Lakes, as far as that of the Enemy can be Ascertained :**

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
MONTREAL, 13th March, 1813.

ON LAKE ERIE.

BRITISH.

Guns.

The *Queen Charlotte*, carrying 12 24-pounders carronades and 4 long 9-pounders, 2 in the bow and 2 in the stern, ship rigged..... 16

|                                                                                                                                       |          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| The <i>Lady Prevost</i> , 10 12-pounders carronades and 2 long sixes,<br>one in the bow and one in the stern, schooner rigged . . . . | 12       |
| The <i>General Hunter</i> , six long six-pounders, cutter rigged . . . .                                                              | 6        |
|                                                                                                                                       | <hr/> 34 |

The above are fully equipped and ready for sea. The following are building and may be ready to launch in June :

|                                                                                                                                          |       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| A ship of 18 guns, which it is proposed to arm with 14 12-pounders carronades and 4 long nines, in bridle ports, bow and stern . . . . . | 18    |
| Two decked gunboats, capable of mounting a long 18-pounder each . . . . .                                                                | 2     |
|                                                                                                                                          | <hr/> |
| Total building . . . . .                                                                                                                 | 20    |
| Total number of guns expected to be mounted in the vessels by the end of June or beginning of July . . . . .                             | 54    |

#### AMERICAN.

The naval force of the enemy on this lake was all taken or destroyed last summer, but they have been building, both at Buffalo and Sandusky.

It is therefore uncertain what their means may be on the opening of navigation.

There is, however, no reason to suppose that they will be enabled to meet us on the lake, as from all information we have been enabled to procure their efforts have been confined to small craft and gun boats.

#### ON LAKE ONTARIO.

| BRITISH.                                                                                                                          | Guns. |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| The <i>Royal George</i> , 20 32-pounders carronades, ship rigged . . .                                                            | 20    |
| The <i>Earl of Moira</i> , carrying 10 18-pounders carronades and 4 long sixes, 2 in the bow and 2 in the stern, brig rigged . .  | 14    |
| The <i>Prince Regent</i> , 10 12-pounders carronades and 2 long sixes, one in the bow and one in the stern, schooner rigged . . . | 12    |
| The <i>Gloucester</i> , formerly carried 6 6-pounders, now repairing; cutter rigged . . . . .                                     | 6     |
|                                                                                                                                   | <hr/> |
| Total . . . . .                                                                                                                   | 52    |

The *Royal George* and *Earl of Moira* are at Kingston and the *Prince Regent* and *Gloucester* are at York.

The above are fully equipped and ready for sea.

The following are now building :

|                                                                                                                                                                |          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| The <i>Sir Isaac Brock</i> , building at York to carry 26 32-pounders carronades and 4 long eighteens, 2 in the bow and 2 in the stern ; ship rigged . . . . . | 30       |
| This vessel should be launched in May.                                                                                                                         |          |
| Ship building at Kingston of 22 guns, 18 32-pounders carronades and 4 long twelves, 2 forward, 2 aft, ship rigged . . .                                        | 22       |
| Schooner building at Kingston, to carry 10 18-pounders carronades and 4 long nines, 2 forward and 2 aft . . . . .                                              | 14       |
|                                                                                                                                                                | <hr/> 66 |

The ship will be launched the 15th of April and the schooner about the middle of May.

AMERICAN.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| The ship <i>Madison</i> , carrying 26 32-pounders carronades . . . .                                                                                                                                               | 26       |
| The brig <i>Oneida</i> , 16 24-pounders carronades . . . . .                                                                                                                                                       | 16       |
| A new vessel building of the class of the <i>Oneida</i> (it is supposed)                                                                                                                                           | 16       |
| Six or eight armed craft carrying either one heavy gun or two or three of a lighter calibre each, say eight vessels, mounting 2 32-pounders long guns, 2 24-pounders long guns, 10 12-pounders long guns . . . . . | 14       |
| Total . . . . .                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <hr/> 72 |

(Enclosed in Sir George Prevost's despatch to Earl Bathurst of 19th March, 1813. Canadian Archives, Q. 121, p. 147.)

**Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.**

YORK, 13th March, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honour of informing Your Excellency that the session of the Legislature of this Province will close this day. There are some amendments to the Militia Act which promise some benefit, and others of rather a doubtful character, but the test of experience may, however, decide in their favour.

I have directed a copy of the titles of the bills which have been framed to be prepared for Your Excellency to accompany this letter, and I shall as early as possible transmit a copy of the acts themselves.

An Incorporated Militia is to be formed of volunteers to serve during the war with the United States, with a bounty of eight dollars. This bounty is granted in compliance with my suggestion of an "outfit." The House was restrained, I believe, from granting a larger sum by a consciousness of its limited means. The Speaker told me that he wished they could have raised the sum for each



man to twenty dollars. All the unappropriated funds of the Province are, however, placed at my disposal, but there will be so many other demands that I shall not be enabled to add to the bounty, which I think too small for the purpose. May I therefore hope for Your Excellency's aid and authority for making an addition of ten or twelve dollars, or of such other sum as you may deem sufficient.

P. S.—The Legislature of Upper Canada will be prorogued this day.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 317, p. 95.)

### **Militia General Orders.**

HEADQUARTERS, YORK, 13th March.

His Honor Major-General Sheaffe is pleased to appoint Ralfe Clinch, Esquire, Assistant Quartermaster General to the militia forces, with the pay and allowances of a Captain. He is to be stationed at Niagara until further orders. He will be allowed forage of one horse and one shilling and sixpence a day for a clerk.

By order,

ÆNEAS SHAW,

Adj't. Gen'l, Militia.

(From the *Quebec Mercury*, April 13th, 1813.)

YORK, March 20, 1813.

On Saturday last, (March 13th) His Honor the President closed the session of the Legislature and was pleased to make the following speech to both Houses :

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :*

The diligence and unanimity with which the business of the session has been brought to so speedy a conclusion are highly creditable to you, and in the present crisis peculiarly acceptable to me.

In declaring His Majesty's assent to the several laws you have enacted, I assure myself that the public good will be promoted. The alterations which have been introduced into the organization of the militia are yet to be submitted to the test of experience, and I hope that they will be productive of the expected benefit.

Your continued liberality in devoting all the surplus revenue to provide means for the defence of the Province cannot fail to be highly gratifying to Your Sovereign.

The aid afforded to the credit and circulation of Army Bills is calculated to produce beneficial effects, though their intrinsic value might have appeared not to require any support.

If it should be found necessary to use the power reposed in the Executive Government to restrain the export of provisions it will be exercised with due circumspection.

I acknowledge my personal satisfaction for the further provision made for the relief of those who may suffer by the casualties of war.

The character of the nation to which we belong is so frank and confiding that she could not contemplate the actual result of the protracted negotiation with the United States—her aid therefore has not yet been fully extended to this insulted Province, but the designs of the enemy being now developed we may be assured that they will be encountered by the energies of a great and powerful people.

In the meantime the attention of the British Empire must have been attracted to it by the successful resistance to the repeated attacks of a numerous and prepared enemy. It behoves us the more therefore to maintain the high character already acquired, and I feel confident that on your return to your homes your example and influence will be employed to sustain throughout the Province that spirit, zeal and loyalty which has hitherto distinguished all classes of His Majesty's subjects, and so nobly supported the regular force employed in its defence.

(File in Library of Parliament, Ottawa.)

## **Second Session of the Sixth Provincial Parliament**

Met at York on the Twenty-fifth day of February and Prorogued on the Third day of March following, in the Fifty-third year of the Reign of George III.

Roger Hale Sheaffe, Esquire, President.

ANNO DOMINI, 1813.

### **Chapter I.**

An Act to facilitate the circulation within this Province of army bills issued by authority of the Province of Lower Canada.

### **Chapter II.**

An Act to repeal and amend certain parts of the militia law, and also for transporting naval and military stores.

### **Chapter III.**

An Act to authorize the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or person administering the government of this Province, to prohibit the exportation of grain and other provisions, and also to restrain the distillation of spirituous liquors from grain.

## Chapter IV.

An Act to provide for the maintenance of persons disabled, and the widows and children of such persons as may be killed in His Majesty's service.

(Passed March 13, 1813.)

*Most Gracious Sovereign :*

Whereas it is deemed expedient to provide means for the support of such officers, non-commissioned officers and private militia-men as may be disabled in His Majesty's service, and to provide for the support of the widows and children of such officers, non-commissioned officers and private militia-men as may be killed on such service; be it therefore enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Province of Upper Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under authority of an act passed in the parliament of Great Britain, entitled: "An act to repeal certain parts of an act passed in the fourteenth year of His Majesty's reign, entitled, 'An act for making more effectual provision for the government of the Province of Quebec in North America, and to make further provision for the government of the said Province,'" and by authority of the same, that if any officer, non-commissioned officer or private militia-man shall in any engagement with the enemy, or by any accident or casualty which may occur while performing any duty on actual service, be killed and leave a widow, child or children lawfully begotten, his widow shall be entitled to receive during her widowhood, and in case of the death or marriage of such widow then the eldest child or guardian for the use of such child or children of such officer, non-commissioned officer or private militia-man, until the youngest thereof shall have attained the age of sixteen years, an annuity of twenty pounds lawful money of this Province.

II. [Repealed by 56th Geo. III., c. 17, s. 1.]

Pension to officers, non-commissioned officers or militia-men disabled on service and having wife or child, and in case of death before recovering from such incapacity to his widow or children.

III. [Repealed by 55 Geo. III., c. 6, s. 1.]

Pension to be paid to officer, &c., disabled, not having a wife or child.

IV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the thirty-eighth clause of an act passed in the fifty-second year of His Majesty's reign, entitled: "An act to repeal part of the laws now in force for raising and training the militia of this Province, and to make further provision for the raising and training the said militia," shall be repealed and the same is hereby repealed

accordingly, provided always that nothing herein contained shall prevent or be construed to prevent the persons who have been wounded or disabled before the passing of this act, or the widow or child or children of such person or persons as have been killed on actual service, from receiving the annuity heretofore by law allowed to them.

V. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said several annuities herein granted shall be paid by the Receiver General of this Province out of any monies that now are or may hereafter come into his hands, subject to the disposition of the parliament of this Province, and in discharge of such warrant or warrants as may be issued by the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or person administering the government of this Province, and it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or person administering the government to order and direct that the said annuities herein granted and allowed shall be paid either in advance or by quarterly or half-yearly payments, as to him shall seem proper, and the said several sums of money when so paid shall be accounted for to His Majesty, his heirs or successors, through the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's treasury, in such manner and form as His Majesty, his heirs and successors, may please to direct.

#### Chapter V.

An act to prohibit the sale of spirituous liquors to Indians in this Province.

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#### Militia General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, YORK, 14th March, 1813.

His Honor Major-General Sheaffe has been pleased to appoint Stephen Jarvis, Esquire, to act as Assistant Adjutant General to the militia forces during the absence of Lieutenant Johnston. He will be stationed at York until further orders. He will receive Captain's pay and forage for one horse and one shilling and sixpence a day for a clerk.

By order,

ÆNEAS SHAW,

Adj't. Gen'l., Militia.

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(From the Buffalo Gazette, 16th March, 1813.)

It has been repeatedly reported that the British have received reinforcements at Newark from Kingston, but we can place little dependence on what we consider as mere deceptive manœuvres on the part of the enemy, for we have been told by respectable prison-

ers of war that the British commander at Fort George was in the frequent practice of sending out detachments from that place to Queenston in the night, and on the next morning would march them down again to the fort in sight of our garrison at Niagara, and at other times would march the forces from Queenston Heights to Fort George at night and next morning return them in plain view of our troops.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

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**District General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, YORK, 16th March, 1813.

Major-General Sheaffe is pleased to direct that the five Lincoln and the 2d York Regiments of militia are to furnish with all possible expedition three companies each for duty on the Niagara line.

There is to be, agreeable to the new militia law, one captain, one lieutenant and three sergeants to each company, and it is not to exceed fifty rank and file.

ÆNEAS SHAW,  
Adjutant General.

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**Sir John Johnson to Colonel William Claus.**

MONTREAL, 16th March, 1813.

MY DEAR SIR:—

I received your letters of the 2nd and 3d instant and now, by desire of Sir George Prevost, send you herewith an extract of a letter from Earl Bathurst, which he desires may be fully and clearly explained to all the nations interested, impressing on their minds in the strongest manner possible that now is the time for their united efforts to rid their country of their unjust intruders and invaders, in which they will be strongly aided by all the force that can be spared from this quarter, as well as by a very formidable division on the sea coast, particularly to the southward, where their brethren will be supported in a manner that cannot fail of bringing those deluded people to a just and honorable peace that will secure to them their country, so unfairly possessed by the Americans. I represented what you desired to Sir George Prevost in the strongest manner I could, relative to the allowances hitherto withheld from the Indian Department, as stated in your letter, to which he replied that if they continued to act as they had done their services should be compensated and that you should make the application to Sir Roger H. Sheaffe, which you should lose no time in doing, and I cannot doubt its success. Our stores are nearly emptied of all the most necessary articles, but large supplies, Sir George informs me,

will be out early this spring, and you may be assured no delay in forwarding them will be found here, and if the communication will be secured by our keeping the command of the river and lakes you may get everything that can be spared and provided here earlier. I am happy to learn that the Indians appear to be so unanimous and hearty in the cause; they have certainly saved your Province and should be treated accordingly. They have acted nobly, and I hope they have ere this given the finishing blow to the invading armies. Never was there a war carried on so miserably as the Americans have this, without knowing how to combine their force or to co-operate with one another, and by all accounts badly supplied with provisions and every other necessity for carrying on a war. I hope as soon as our navy and perhaps a united English and Spanish force begin to operate to southward you will be a more equal match for them, and that an honorable peace with a more favorable and extended boundary will be the result of the most unjust, unprovoked and unnatural war that was ever waged against any nation, and which Providence hitherto seems to have frowned upon; for never was there more disgrace attached to any set of men than there has been to them in every attempt they have made to disturb the peace and happiness of an unoffending people. The disgrace and total destruction of the grand united force under that fiend and disturber of the peace of the world, Bonaparte, is a further proof of the just interference of Providence, and I hope will lead to the downfall of the greatest of tyrants. Let me hear from you on every occasion worth communicating, particularly the result of General Harrison's expedition. Our frontiers here are nearly abandoned by the enemy, to strengthen their upper posts, particularly Sackett's Harbor, which might have been destroyed with all their shipping, which would have secured to us the command of Ontario, which without the greatest exertions now I fear will be lost.

Return the enclosed, as I have not taken a copy of it.

(Canadian Archives, Claus Papers.)

**Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp to Brigadier-General Vincent.**

**FORT ERIE, March 18th, 1813.**

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that the enemy commenced a cannonade on our lines at a quarter past 12 o'clock on the morning of the 17th instant, which lasted till six o'clock the next evening, during which time we succeeded in dismounting three of the enemy's guns. Our fire was extremely well directed and must have done great execution. Our loss is only one killed and seven

wounded. I am particularly obliged to Captain Bridge, commanding the Royal Artillery, for his attention and alacrity on this occasion. The men stationed at the guns behaved most gallantly. Lieut. Armstrong of the Royal Artillery was detached three miles from Fort Erie at the mortar battery, having in his charge two field pieces.

Lieut. Gardiner of the Newfoundland Regiment had the direction of two three-pounders, and was attached to the troops from Fort Erie under the command of Major Ormsby of the 49th Regiment, who were all night under arms on the road between Fort Erie and the batteries, ready to oppose any landing from Black Rock and to support the detachment of the 41st Regiment and Royal Newfoundland Fencibles on the left.

I beg leave to recommend particularly to your notice Captain Whelan of the Royal Newfoundland Fencibles, who commanded at the 12-pounder battery, whose conduct upon all occasions and particularly upon this has shown him to be a very valuable officer. To Dr. Harford and the medical staff the greatest credit is due in procuring sleighs to carry off the wounded, and in their attention to them afterwards.

I am happy to say the men are all doing well. Had the enemy attempted to land above Fort Erie across the ice everything was to be expected from the good conduct of the militia, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Clark, 2d Lincoln Militia, stationed up the lake. Every individual, both regulars and militia, were anxious for the moment which would have given them an opportunity of serving their King and country. Lieut. Barnard, my staff adjutant, will have the honor of delivering to you this report; he is well acquainted with every circumstance that has occurred and will give you any information that may be required.

(Canadian Archives, C. 678.)

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**Return of the Killed and Wounded of the Following Corps During the Cannonade of the 17th Instant.**

**FORT ERIE, March 19th, 1813.**

**KILLED.**

Royal Newfoundland Regiment—1 rank and file.

**WOUNDED.**

Royal Artillery—1 rank and file, slightly.

41st Regiment—1 do do.

Royal Newfoundland Regiment—1 do. severely, (not dangerously), 4 rank and file, slightly.

(Canadian Archives, C. 678.)

(From the Ontario Repository of Canandaigua, 30th March, 1813.)

From our correspondent at Buffalo, March 18, 1813 :

Last week appearances indicated another attempt to invade Canada. Volunteers and militia were called in from the neighborhood to the number of about 500. The weather grew colder and the ardor of the [troops] also began to cool. On Saturday night (13th) the troops were drawn up with two days provisions in their knapsacks, expecting every moment to march. At 10 o'clock they were ordered to their barracks, and in the morning the volunteers, being discharged, went home. On Tuesday night another expedition was fitted out to cross and capture a guard, consisting of Swift's and a company of volunteers under Major C[hapin], but was also abandoned. The troops persisted in marching after being ordered back, so great was their ardor, but on the Major pursuing them and repeating the order they reluctantly returned. The Commander in this case has undoubtedly done his duty ; his force was barely sufficient to make a descent, and the result would certainly have been to our disadvantage.

(File in Wood Library, Canandaigua, N. Y.)

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(From the Buffalo Gazette, 20th March, 1813.)

The following is a copy of a handbill which is now being circulated in Canada. The author, we understand, resides near Long Point, and is a member of the Provincial Parliament.

#### ADDRESS TO THE INHABITANTS OF UPPER CANADA.

When intelligence arrived amongst us that the Government of the United States had declared war against Great Britain and was actually making preparation for the invasion of this Province, the country seemed convulsed in the extreme. Every man knew the weak and defenceless state of the Province and dreaded the consequences. They almost despaired of any success in resisting, knowing that the American prints had for some months showed accounts of their raising armies. What made the news more alarming was that although the States had been for some time assuming a hostile attitude towards Great Britain the inhabitants had always fondly believed that all differences between the two governments would be amicably settled, as Great Britain had clearly evinced her inclination to adopt the most conciliatory measures in promoting and confirming a permanent peace with the United States, with the proviso that it should not be politically calculated for France to receive a preponderating participation in particular points which she would relinquish and be thereby enabled by degrees to gain an



ascendancy upon her navy and consequently on her commerce in every quarter of the globe.

For awhile many of the people ceased to perform their ordinary course of domestic employment, and a stagnant depression of spirits was prominent in the countenance of [al]most every inhabitant. Vigorous preparations were, however, immediately made for the defence of the Province by His Honor Major-General Brock, as far as his means would admit, but still everything wore a direful aspect, and as if it were to complete the downfall of the Province General Hull, commanding the Northwestern Army of the United States, landed at Sandwich with his whole army and issued his proclamation to the inhabitants of Canada, which, though it was intended and calculated to depreciate His Majesty's form of government and to alienate the minds of his liege subjects therefrom, was teeming with such cruel and implacable threats upon them if they united their efforts to repel his force as the most degenerate and savage state of barbarism does not exhibit. General Brock, however, knowing that desperate cases require desperate means, immediately proceeded with a small band of veterans, accompanied by volunteers from different regiments of militia, to dislodge the enemy from Sandwich, and it was upon this ever memorable occasion that the young men of Upper Canada signalized themselves for their bravery and attachment to their country, who, without any degree of hesitation or timidity, embraced the first opportunity of gaining to themselves rank amongst the greatest heroes of the times. So zealously animated were they upon this occasion that several hundreds were left behind for want of boats to transport them to the place destined to meet the country's foe. The world must acknowledge this was the trying time for their courage and genuine patriotism, when a formidable army was on the confines of our frontiers, we were in daily expectation of an attack between Fort Erie and Fort George, and a powerful one landed in the western district, when it was notoriously known throughout the whole country that the enemy were fortifying and that their numbers were four times as great as the force we were sending to oppose them. Without a panegyric, the names of every one of those young men of Upper Canada who volunteered their services upon this important occasion deserve to be immortalized. They ought to be handed down to succeeding generations as a model to futurity upon like occasions. Our gallant General's progress was so rapid and his movements so warlike that General Hull and his forces, justly anticipating the fury of an attack from him, shrunk from the idea of endeavoring to resist the impetuosity of their shock and recrossed the river to their own shore in the utmost precipitancy a

day or two previous to the arrival of General Brock and his force.

Upon the arrival our troops, seeing (torn and illegible) could be effected by proclamation or a drunken frolic.

Such conduct as that of our brave troops clearly evinced to them that men who were the actors in so brave an enterprise would fight, and that they must in reality possess the most sovereign, venerable and respectable opinion of the country, government and constitution in and under which they had the happiness to live, and they, disgracefully to themselves as the subjects of any nation, surrendered their whole army to the supreme heroism and bravery of our handful of troops. This allayed all fears throughout the Province and the inhabitants were perfectly tranquil, pursued their necessary avocations as usual in quietude, and a pleasing gleam of hope and confidence pervaded the countenance of every man that we should always be able to brave the rude assault of our enemies.

Fired with military enthusiasm and indignation at the base conduct of the enemy in the Western District, the militia were all in perfect readiness to cross the river and reduce all the fortifications from Buffalo to Niagara, but the wise system of policy pursued by General Brock, in imitation of that of the mother country, was to assume the posture of reconciliation; not to be the first aggressor; to act on the defensive and to flog them terribly when they attempted to invade us.

The French party in the States have argued that the people of the Provinces would never resist their encroachments, but the capture of Detroit, the battle of Queenston, the battle near Frenchman's Creek bridge below Fort Erie ferry, the capture of General Winchester and his whole army, the late glorious achievement at Ogdensburg when the militia behaved equally as well as at Detroit, the general conduct of the militia throughout the Province, establishes it as an incontrovertible fact that the inhabitants are invariably loyal, with a very few exceptions, and possess all the warmth and respect to good government, which is a happiness in any country.

History boasts of the brave conduct and heroism of the ancient Greeks and Romans in contending with their enemies as unequaled, but considering the infant state of Upper Canada, the difficulties which it has labored under for several months in contending with a powerful nation, and the success with which it has beaten and repelled their assaults, it may vie with any of them for loyalty, patriotism and valor. It is possible for it to be overrun and destroyed, but it is absolutely impossible, while the art of printing exists, for it ever to lose its good name. The venerable reputation its inhabitants have acquired in arms since the commencement of

hostilities against it by the United States can never be forgotten, and while it continues to possess the same spirit, with the reinforcements we may reasonably expect early in the spring, we may continue to put our assailants at defiance until their own distracted policy can have its necessary operation and meet with its deserved fate, and we be rid of all our troubles.

It appears almost impossible in the nature and fitness of things for the present government of the United States to exist under a war for a series of years, as their resources for carrying it on must entirely depend upon loans from individuals or a direct taxation upon the people, and as a taxation, although trivial, was the cause of their separation from their mother country, we may reasonably conclude that they are but illy calculated at present to submit to it, particularly when we know by what a small majority war was declared, and what abilities opposed it in the House of Congress. And when we see such productions amongst their own public prints as the New Hampshire Memorial to the President of the United States, remonstrating against the war measures, the proclamation of Governor Griswold of Connecticut, and many more documents which might be adduced if necessary.

The loss of His Honor Major-General Brock at the battle of Queenston was seriously lamented, as all knew his bravery and experience and were convinced that the defence of the country was uppermost in his breast, but the conduct of His Honor Major-General Sheaffe, who immediately succeeded him in the command, in gaining the heights at Queenston and completely defeating the enemy on that day, has given the country the most implicit confidence in his military abilities. And above all, what seems to warrant and insure us success is that every man when he takes the field to meet the foe carries in his own breast a self-evident and strictly religious conviction that the GOD of BATTLES is with him. Such men can and will act nobly and gloriously, being entirely devoid of that remorse of conscience which touches, stings and confuses the feelings and actions of all men when they are doing wrong, and which we are sure every one of our invaders carries his due proportion of.

His Excellency Sir George Prevost from Quebec, the Commander of the Forces in British America, is now on a tour to view the different military posts on our frontier, and from such a signal mark of his determination to afford us all the assistance in his power, together with the military skill and vigilance of His Honor Major-General Sheaffe, our beloved President, we may anticipate everything salutary and desirable.

The present parliament now in session is about to be as liberal as possible in providing.

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(From the Buffalo Gazette, 23d March, 1813.)

On Wednesday morning last, (17th March,) at about one o'clock, in conformity with some previous arrangements, our batteries at Black Rock opened fire upon those of the enemy, which continued with but little intermission during the day. The Sailors' Battery at the navy yard silenced the enemy's lower battery and probably killed several of the enemy. One man was killed at our battery by a cannon shot from the enemy, one lost his hand in the act of loading one of the pieces, and several accidents happened, 2 or 3 balls passed thro' our barracks and several private houses were injured a little. A few shot were exchanged on Thursday morning.

Three families residing on the Niagara River below Fort Erie made their escape from Canada with most of their household effects. They took the back road in rear of Fort Erie, and passing up the lake they made the beach near Sugar Loaf. They immediately took the ice between the sentries, and succeeded in getting a fine start on the lake before they were discovered. They passed through this village. They represent the situation of the poor class of the Canadian people as truly distressing.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

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**Lieut. Patrick McDonogh to his Parents.**

BLACK ROCK, March 19th, 1813.

We had a cannonading here on the 17th inst. It commenced from an alarm given on the lake at one o'clock in the morning and lasted until dark the next evening. There have been several expeditions on foot for crossing, but none has been carried into effect. They are very weak on the opposite side and we are not strong, altho' double their number on the Niagara probably.

We have had correct information from General Harrison; he has had to entrench his army, being so weakened by the defeat of Winchester, and some, whose term of service had expired, returning, that an issue of an engagement would have been doubtful and perhaps fatal. They were in good spirits, and such was the secrecy observed in camp that the men were ignorant of their own weakness; not a line was permitted to go out of camp.

(From advance sheets of the Records of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia.)

(From the *Quebec Mercury*, 27th April, 1813.)

MR. CARY :

SIR,—The following is an extract of a letter from a private in the Newfoundland Regiment. If you think it worthy of notice it is at your service.

FORT ERIE, 20th March, 1813.

SIR,—The Yankeys began to cannonade us on the 16th, about 10 o'clock at night, and continued their fire until the next night at 8 o'clock. We lost one man killed and eight wounded, one of whom lost his hand by a round shot. The Yankeys had their boats all ready to cross, but like cowards they pulled in their horns when they saw we were ready to receive them. We received each half a pint of whiskey, just as the boats made their appearance, and were fully determined to dispute every inch of ground at the point of the bayonet. I am certain that every man of us would have fallen before we had given up to the enemy. We are in the greatest state of preparation to receive the Yankey cowards, and that we may be the more ready to give them that reception which they deserve, we sleep with our clothes on, each man being provided with a blanket for that purpose.

(File in the Library of Parliament, Ottawa.)

**Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.**

YORK, 18th March, 1813.

SIR,—After despatching the letter which I did myself the honour of addressing Your Excellency on the 13th instant, the importance of forming without delay an efficient force from the militia, and of giving effect on its first publication to the new plan adopted for that purpose struck me so forcibly that I determined to offer in the instructions I had prepared an addition sum of ten dollars to each volunteer for the Incorporated Militia. I hope that the critical situation in which the Province is placed will justify me for having adopted the measure without waiting for an answer from Your Excellency to my application on the subject.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 317, p. 97.)

**Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.**

(No. 50.)

QUEBEC, 19th March, 1813.

MY LORD :—

No. 13, 16th Nov., 1812.

No. 14, 8th Dec., do.

No. 15, 9th do., do.

I have been honored by the receipt of Your Lordship's despatches, dated as per margin. That the measures which I had thought it expedient to adopt for the defence of this portion of His

Majesty's dominions upon the first intimation of hostilities with America, and those which have been since continued, should have met with the approbation of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent is highly gratifying to me, and particularly, as in this instance, my opinion of the propriety of defending with all the means at my disposal the frontier of the Canadas led me to an opposite line of conduct to that pursued by my predecessor, whose sole object appears to have been directed to the concentration of his force at Quebec, the only post which Sir James Craig considered capable of a protracted resistance.

I have not failed in calling forth every exertion to preserve the superiority of the British naval force upon the lakes, so essentially necessary for the defence of Upper Canada, and I beg leave to enclose for Your Lordship's information the copy of a report I have received upon this subject, accompanied by a comparative statement of the British and American Marine force upon the lakes, as far as that of the enemy can be ascertained. By these documents it will appear that the number of officers and seamen required to make good the deficiency in the ships already employed and to man those now building will far exceed the proportion that have been allotted for this service. I cannot therefore omit the opportunity of craving Your Lordship's consideration to this important object, that our wants may be complied with.

It has afforded me great pleasure in conveying to Major-General Sir Roger H. Sheaffe and the officers and troops under his command the entire approbation of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, of their zealous exertions and exemplary courage displayed in repelling and defeating the enemy in his attack at Queenston on the 13th October last, and of the distinguished marks of favor which His Royal Highness has in consequence been graciously pleased to confer upon the Major-General and the several officers in testimony of the sense entertained of their services.

I did not fail at the same time to make known that His Royal Highness was fully aware of the serious loss which His Majesty's service has experienced in the death of Major-General Sir Isaac Brock, and that His Royal Highness has been pleased to express his regret at the loss which the Province must experience by the death of the Attorney-General, Mr. Macdonnell, whose zealous co-operation with Sir Isaac Brock will reflect lasting honour on his memory.

The assurance which Your Lordship has enabled me to make to the Indian tribes, that whenever negotiations for peace may be entered into the security of the Indian possessions shall not be compromised or forgotten, will no doubt have the effect of securing

the cordial co-operation of those nations which upon so many occasions have proved of the utmost importance to His Majesty's Government, and by a continuance of the same general line of conduct which I have always adopted towards the Indians I have no reason to apprehend that their assistance will during the present contest be withheld or transferred to the enemy.

I have received with infinite satisfaction Your Lordship's communication acquainting me that it has been found possible to withdraw from other services the three regiments named and that they will proceed immediately to Bermuda for the purpose of entering the St. Lawrence as soon as the season will admit.

I am aware of the great exertion that has been required to collect this force, and of the anxiety His Majesty's Government has shown to place me in a situation conformable to my wishes.

The expectation of the above reinforcement and the arrival of six companies of the 104th Regiment from New Brunswick has enabled me to strengthen the several posts in Upper Canada, and for this purpose I have directed the removal of the headquarters of the 1st Battalion of the 8th (or King's) Regiment to Kingston, where six companies of that corps will be stationed, with five companies of the Glengarry levy and the Marine detachment of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, for the defence of the shipping and dock-yard at that port until the naval means of defending Upper Canada have arrived from England.

I have also ordered four companies of the Canadian Voltigeurs to be put in motion for Kingston, to be stationed there or advanced to the Niagara frontier as circumstances may require.

I have been induced to adopt the latter measure to afford an early proof of the disposition of the Canadians of the lower Province to contribute to the defence of Upper Canada, where circumstances inseparable from the calling forth the militia force of an infant colony are frequently evident in the losses, privations and hardships which are inevitably entailed on the peasantry.

I look forward with some anxiety to the arrival early in the spring of the several articles of arms, camp equipage, clothing and stores which Your Lordship has stated to have been ordered in compliance with my requisitions, and I am thankful to Your Lordship for the assurance that no exertions will be wanting to place such means at my disposal as may lessen the difficulties of my situation, and ensure the security of His Majesty's Provinces under my command.

I have much satisfaction in the opportunity which my visit to Upper Canada has afforded me of reporting to Your Lordship that



a proper understanding is restored in that Province by the extinction of the cabal operating against the person administering the government, for whilst I remained at York I received the most unequivocal assurances from the legislative body then and there assembled, of their decided disposition to discharge their duty to His Majesty and the people with unanimity, promptitude and efficiency.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 121, p. 140.)

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**Major-General Sheaffe to Mr. Noah Freer.**

YORK, 20th March, 1813.

DEAR SIR:—

Thinking that it would be proper to transmit to Earl Bathurst the documents received from B. General Procter as explanatory of his motives for establishing martial law in the Territory of Michigan, I have looked for them, but in vain. I therefore take it for granted that they accompanied you from hence, and that His Excellency will send them home if he thinks it necessary.

I have been favored with your communication of the 11th of March, containing much agreeable intelligence; the promised reinforcements will not be the less acceptable for having been unexpected. I wish the Riga heroes were at their destined posts.

I believe that the sum to be transferred by Sir George's warrant to the Receiver General cannot be ascertained until I go to Fort George, where I hope to be in a very few days; the sum first asked is perhaps not sufficient at present.

Major Heathcote and detachment arrived to-day. I expect two companies of Glengarry in a day or two.

You will have the goodness to complete the information about *all* the allowances for the several militia staff departments, clerks and their allowances; what for, office rent, stationery; of what rank, the Gn. allowances of the D. Q. Master General, &c.

The enemy celebrated St. Patrick's day by firing on us at our right flank. One man was killed and two wounded of the N<sup>o</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Regt. We dismounted, it is said, three of their guns.

(Canadian Archives, C. 678 p. 133.)

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**Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe to Earl Bathurst.**

YORK, 20th March, 1813.

MY LORD:—

The various documents connected with the business of the late session of the Legislature of this Province, which are preparing for



transmission, will no doubt afford high satisfaction as furnishing strong evidence of the spirit of unanimity and of true patriotism which has governed the proceedings of that body. The means at its disposal being inadequate to the paying of so large a bounty to volunteers for the Incorporated Militia as would be necessary to answer every purpose, there were only eight dollars voted for each man. The Speaker of the House of Assembly told me he wished they could have raised it to twenty each, the same which His Excellency Sir George Prevost had mentioned to me as that which he thought might be required for an outfit. It being my own decided opinion that the sum granted was insufficient either to operate as an inducement for engaging in the Incorporated Militia during the war or even to provide the necessary articles for an outfit, I addressed a letter to His Excellency applying for further aid, and soon after its departure I wrote another, of both of which I have the honour to transmit copies (Nos. 1 and 2). I have only to add, in order to lay the whole before Your Lordship, that they were written under the impression which I had received from a communication made to me by Sir George Prevost that but little if any hope could be entertained of a reinforcement from Europe, and that a most urgent necessity existed for forming without delay a force more efficient than the ordinary militia of the Province. As an additional aid for the purpose, I have announced it to be my intention to recommend the services of the Incorporated Militia to the favourable consideration of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent for a grant of land, and I do accordingly solicit Your Lordship's attention to that mode of rewarding faithful services, the most acceptable in an infant colony, and that you will be pleased to lay my humble recommendation of it at the feet of our most gracious Prince.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 317, p. 92.)

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**Memo. by Lieut.-Colonel Glegg.**

Route from Sandwich to Fort George:—

|                        | Miles.       |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Sandwich.....          | 18           |
| Belle Riviere.....     | 22           |
| River Thames.....      | 18           |
| Matthew Dolson's.....  | 16           |
| Mr. Richardson's.....  | 20           |
| Fairfield Village..... | 6            |
| George Ward's.....     | 10           |
| Delaware.....          | 24—Total 134 |

|                                   |    |          |
|-----------------------------------|----|----------|
| McMullen's.....                   | 7  |          |
| McCartney's.....                  | 29 |          |
| Cainfields.....                   | 11 |          |
| Yeigh's.....                      | 13 |          |
| Grand River.....                  | 12 |          |
| Vanderlip's.....                  | 14 |          |
| Hotel (Ancaster).....             | 4  | Total 90 |
| John Petit's.....                 | 18 |          |
| 40 Mile Creek.....                | 5  |          |
| Henry's.....                      | 10 |          |
| Fort George.....                  | 20 |          |
| Grand total.....                  |    | 277      |
| From Fort George to Ancaster..... | 57 |          |
| From Ancaster to Delaware.....    | 90 |          |
| Total.....                        |    | 147      |

NIAGARA, 20th March, 1813.

Circular :

SIR,—You will please to have your company paraded at Shipman's on Tuesday next, the 23rd instant, at 12 o'clock, with such arms and accoutrements as they may have in their possession. You will also have a roll of your company.

W. CLAUS, Colonel,  
1st Regt., L. M.

To Capt. J. A. Ball.

#### General Order.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
QUEBEC, 20th March, 1813.

General Order.

The Commander of the Forces directs that a detachment of four complete companies of the Canadian Voltigeurs, under the command of Major Heriot, should proceed to Kingston, Upper Canada. Major-General De Rottenburg will cause this detachment to commence its march from the Montreal District as soon as it may be in readiness after the settlement of their accounts to the 24th instant.

EDWARD BAYNES,  
A. G. N. A.

**Brigadier-General Vincent to Major-General Sheaffe.**

FORT GEORGE, 21st March, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor herewith to forward a letter from Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp, commanding at Fort Erie, containing a report of a cannonade commenced by the enemy on the morning of the 17th inst., with a list of the killed and wounded.

I have been since at the fort and found all quiet. I have also to report the wounded are doing well. The man reported 'dangerously' has lost his left arm.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 317, p. 100.)

**From F. L. Walsh to Thomas Welch.**

## FIFTH LETTER FROM CARTER'S POINT.

*To Thomas Welch :*

After writing my 4th letter it was my turn to go to the lower picquet on duty for 24 hours—that was from 4 o'clock of the 16th inst. to 4 o'clock of the 17th inst. They had thrown four shots at the ferry within 24 hours, a circumstance I intended to mention in my last letter but sealed it without its immediate occurrence then.

The picquet I commanded mounted at about 7 p. m. of the 16th, when I continued to watch with the centries during the fore part of the night. About one o'clock we heard volleys of musketry at or near Buffalo, at short intervals, for about two hours. The night was very still. About 3 o'clock the enemy offered a heavy cannonade from their batteries upon our people at the ferry, &c. The fire was returned, about one shot of ours to eight or ten of theirs. Col. Clark, of the 3d Regiment of Lincoln Militia, now rode up to give his regiment, (who were stationed above us, at Haun's,) orders to march for Fort Erie, and at the same time communicated similar orders to Capt. Rapelje, who set forward with his and Capt. Powell's united companies. They soon reached the lower picquet where we joined the party, except one left on centry. We found on our route that the regulars had marched down before us. We could discover some of them, however, at a great distance on the ice as a guard, and was told next morning that one of them deserted from that position in the night and undoubtedly got safe across. The countersign was changed. When we reached Fort Erie we could discover the batteries of the enemy as they fired, and saw one shell sail across the river, but it did not burst. A number was fired on both sides. Still the cannonade increased. However, instead of being ordered to join the army near the ferry we was ordered to return to Rose's Point, two-thirds of the way back, which

was almost to the lower picquet, where I resumed my station for the night. The cannonading continued till the 17th at evening. An officer of the regulars informed me about noon of the 17th that we had one man killed and eight wounded, and was since told that two of the wounded were dead. Next night (17th) we were all collected at Davis's Point, where we all lodged in a barn all night without blankets. On the 19th we had a general parade at Carter's Point. Col. Nichol arrived just after the parade and said a sleigh was crossing the ice. Several gentlemen rode off in pursuit. One horse fell into the ice at a great distance off. An alarm spread thro' the parade that the gentlemen were captured. General Vincent gave orders that the whole should march to them with all possible expedition. We, however, found our mistake before we reached our destination. After the horse was got out of the ice, the General proceeded and found two dead bodies on the ice, who had froze in attempting to cross. Arrangements have been going forward to bring them ashore since and bury them, but has not yet been effected.

Nothing new within these few days. Nothing heard but recruiting. I am going to the Fort to-day.

Monday, 22d March, 1813.

One p. m.

I remain, &c., in haste,

F. L. WALSH.

(Toronto Public Library.)

### General Order.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
23d March, 1813.

#### General Order.

The flank companies of the 8th or King's Regiment are to march to Kingston.

The four companies of the Glengarry Light Infantry to proceed from Kingston to Niagara.

EDWARD BAYNES,

A. G. N. A.

**Memo. by Lieut.-Colonel Glegg.**

Total strength of corps in the Niagara District, 24th March, 1813.

|                                 | R[ank] and F[ile.] |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Royal Artillery . . . . .       | 66                 |
| 41st Regt. . . . .              | 392                |
| 49th do. . . . .                | 594                |
| Glengarry Lt. Inf'y } . . . . . | 92                 |
| Rl. Newf'd Regt. }              |                    |
|                                 | <hr/> 1144         |
| Glengarry Light Inf'y., }       |                    |
| 12th April }                    | 78                 |

Total Regulars . . . . . 1222  
 12th April, 1813 !!! the second year of the war !!!  
 18th April.—State of Niagara Lt. Dgrs.

R. & F.  
 29

Horses, 31.

|                                                      |           |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Glengarry Lt. Inf'y., strength 12th April . . . . .  | 78        |
| Detacht. joined at Fort George, 20th April . . . . . | 35        |
|                                                      | <hr/> 113 |
| Detacht. of 8th or King's Regt. . . . .              | 79        |
|                                                      | <hr/> 192 |
| Marched into Fort George, 20th April . . . . .       |           |
| Lt. E. S. C. Dr. P. . . . . R. & F.                  |           |
| 1 1 5 5 1 74 . . . . .                               | 79        |

(From memorandum book in possession of Lt.-Col. Turner.)

**General Order.**

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
 QUEBEC, 24th March, 1813.

G. O.

Captain Wallace with half a company of the Royal Artillery is to march on the 24th inst. for Montreal, on his route to Kingston.

The detachment of Captain Holcroft's company of Royal Artillery at Kingston is to proceed to Niagara immediately on the arrival of Captain Wallace at Kingston.

EDWARD BAYNES

A. G. N. A

**General Dearborn to the Secretary of War.**

(Extract.)

ALBANY, March 25, 1813.

Colonel Porter informs me that he had commenced the necessary preparations for an attack on Fort Erie, but the desertion of a sergeant prevented his carrying his intended attack into operation. Two officers with six men pursued the sergeant so far as to be surrounded on the ice, and were made prisoners. Fort Erie was immediately reinforced, and he had given over any immediate movement.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. 1.)

**Militia General Orders.**

HEADQUARTERS, YORK,  
26th March, 1813.

From the 25th of this month inclusive pay is not to be charged for more than the following proportion for each company called on duty :

One Captain.  
One Lieutenant.  
One Ensign.  
Three Sergeants.  
Three Corporals.  
One Drummer.

By order

ÆNEAS SHAW,  
Adjt. Genl., Militia.

Sent to

Fort George.  
Sandwich.  
Kingston.  
Fort Erie.  
Prescott and York.

**New York "State-man," March 29th, 1813.**

On Saturday, the 27th ult., the Adjutant commanding at Fort George sent a flag over to our garrison informing Lieut.-Colonel McFeely that a salute would on the following day be fired in consequence of their success at Ogdensburg. The same evening an express arrived at Buffalo with an account of the engagement between the American frigate *Constitution* and the British frigate *Java*, which eventuated in the total destruction of the latter, and

on Tuesday morning a flag was sent over to Fort Erie to inform the British commander of the victory, and that a salute would be fired on the occasion.

Two very handsome buildings were some time since reduced to ashes in the town of Chippawa on the Canadian side of the river, opposite Fort Schlosser, by an exasperated militia, who had then been detained from their homes for a length of time without being permitted to see their families, &c., who were suffering behind them. We are informed that those militia were soon after permitted to retire.

A gentleman who had been ordered from Detroit in consequence of his refusal to take the oath arrived at Lewiston on the 27th ult., and informed the Editor that the militia of Oxford, a large and well settled township above the head of Lake Ontario, peremptorily refused to march against General Harrison, and that numbers in different places would pay their fines rather than turn out against the United States.

(New York Society Library.)

**Sir George Prevost to Major-General Sheaffe.**

QUEBEC, 27th March, 1813.

SIR,—The period for carrying on actively offensive operations approaching fast and many circumstances uniting to indicate that Upper Canada will become in the first instance the seat of war, I have been induced to reinforce the forces under your command with half a company of artillery: the 8th (or King's) Regiment, six companies of the 104th Regiment and four companies of the Canadian Voltigeurs, to enable you to restrain the predatory incursions of the enemy and defeat any repetition of the ill-concerted attacks which presumption has hitherto induced him to make.

But in the event of an attempt at invasion, conducted on the principle of his possessing a sufficiency of means for the object, it will be wise to act with such caution as would enable you to husband your resources for future exertion.

I therefore do not hesitate in recommending activity and perseverance in the measures of defence, for which your present force and recent preparations are so well calculated.

The fatal effects of dividing and dissipating a force by attempting to support too many points have been so frequently illustrated of late that I am under little apprehension of your not feeling that it is by concentrated means, alone, adequate effects can ever be produced. I am satisfied that the application of this principle may with safety be left to your prudence and judgment, aided by the

perfect knowledge of the country which you possess. Convinced that it is impossible I can free you from many embarrassments which will inevitably arise from circumstances inseparable from the war we are carrying on, as they can neither be foreseen nor provided for, it only remains for me to assure you that I have every disposition for putting the most liberal construction on your measures for the promotion of the public service in every difficulty that may occur, and for making the most favorable report of them, founded on those principles, to His Majesty's Government.

Besides the extraordinary exertions which have been made for regaining our ascendancy on Lake Ontario and for maintaining that which we now possess on Lake Erie, by sending you such articles as were required for fitting out and arming the additional vessels now building at Kingston, York and Amherstburg, you have been supplied with clothing for your militia and with arms, accoutrements, ammunition and stores of every kind and description.

Unacquainted with the changes which your Militia Law experienced, I am obliged to confine myself to recommending in the most earnest manner to your particular regard the formation of your corps of militia, and that when called out they should be regularly paid, properly fed and comfortably clothed. In my late visit to Upper Canada those essentials appeared to me not sufficiently attended to, and to be the cause of serious complaint.

I am now come to that highly important part of your resources, the employment of the Indians, some in aid of your precautionary measures of defence and others for making offensive demonstrations for the recovery of their usurped territory, the latter of which cannot fail to operate as a powerful diversion in your favor.

In consideration therefore of the movement of the confederate nations from the Wabash to the River Raisin under Tecumseh, and of the expected arrival from the westward of several warlike tribes with Mr. Dickson, the aggregate number of which will be formidable, I have decided on entrusting the management of those distinct tribes of Indians to other hands than those that are at present employed in the Indian Department at Amherstburg, and accordingly have appointed Mr. R. Dickson Deputy Superintendent of Indians in the Michigan and conquered territory, on account of the high opinion I entertain of his courage, his perseverance, his integrity and zeal for the service.

The late instance of the intrigue resorted to by the Indian Department in the case of Norton, and the evidence it afforded of the want of proper subordination, have put me on my guard against their endeavors to thwart my designs or impede their progress, because they are not to be executed by them, and induces me to



recommend to you to vest in Colonel Procter sufficient authority to enable him to support Mr. Dickson in his organization of the Indians from the westward, and in his endeavors to check the prodigal expenditure of provisions and to establish strict impartiality in the treatment they experience from us, so that His Majesty's gracious bounty may flow through the channel in which it was intended.

I cannot too frequently repeat to you that having been unfortunately under the necessity of availing ourselves of Indian assistance, it is desirable on every principle of humanity and policy that all practicable means should be adopted to soften the ferocity of their usual mode of warfare and to restrain them in it.

With a view of facilitating the important services which are soon to take place in the marine branch of the Q. Mr. Gen'l's dept. in Upper Canada, I have ordered Captain Gray to proceed to Kingston, as an officer well qualified to afford you assistance in the co-operative measures you have in contemplation for the previous concentration and future preservation of our ships of war until the arrival of the naval officers and seamen who have been promised from England.

P. S.—Upon the arrival at Fort George of the King's Regt. you will push on to Detroit the companies of the 41st Regt. you have detained on the Niagara Frontier.

(Canadian Archives, Freer Papers, 1812-13, p. 118½; also series 2, 121, p. 169.)

### General Order.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
QUEBEC, 27th March, 1813.

G. O.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces is pleased to order the following movements of troops.

Major Drummond with the flank companies of the 104th Regiment to proceed to Montreal and from thence to Kingston.

Major-General De Rottenburg will direct a complete company of the 1st or Royal Scots to march immediately to Prescott to relieve the two companies of the 8th or King's at that place, giving the officer in command of the companies, by express, previous notice of the day he will arrive at Prescott. The flank companies of the 8th (or King's) to continue their march to Niagara.

The battalion companies of the 104th Regiment to march to Montreal and from thence to Kingston, in two divisions, on Monday or Tuesday next.

The 8th (or King's) Regiment to march to Niagara. Colonel Young will assume the command of the regiment, to be conducted

by companies in succession to ensure the necessary accommodation and means of transport for troops upon this route.

No superfluous stores or heavy baggage to be carried. The officers commanding detachments of the 8th or 104th Regiments are immediately on their arrival at Prescott to send forward by express, notice of the time that their respective detachments will arrive at Kingston, and the officer commanding at that post will hold the King's in readiness to forward a detachment of King's on the morning of the day that a detachment is destined to relieve them, so that the last rear detachment of the 104th will arrive at that station. (*Sic.*)

The battalion companies of the 1st (or Royal Scots) to be quartered at Montreal.

A battalion company of the 1st (or Royal Scots) to march from Quebec for Montreal on Monday next at 7 o'clock.

These movements to be made with the least possible delay, and every care to expedite and facilitate the march is to be afforded by the officers commanding districts and posts, and by officers of the commissariat without waiting for further orders.

EDWARD BAYNES,

A. G. N. A.

**From a Sketch of the Campaign of 1812, from Notes by W. Hamilton Merritt, Lieut. Mil[itia] Drag[oons], Written at the Moment.**

During this quiet interval every preparation was making for the next campaign our small means would admit. The Commander in Chief visited the frontier and authorized the raising of one or two Regiments of Militia to be incorporated to serve during the war and a company of artillery or two under Cpts. Powell and Cameron, likewise a troop of Prov[incial] L[igh]t Dragoons and Royal Art[illery] Drivers to be enlisted for 18 months or during the war under Martial Law. The former, after some time, was given to me, the latter to Capt. Swayzey, who for his years and services justly deserved it. A few captains got their complements of militia. [The] Drivers and Dragoons were completed by 25th March, Capt. C[ameron]'s artillery some time after. My quota was completed in a fortnight after receiving my recruiting orders, altho' I had to encounter many jealousies and difficulties. [They] were all excellent men but badly mounted and appointed.

On the 15th February, 1813, I retired from the service with a

strong desire never to re-enter it. I had some thoughts of making proposals to raise a troop of Provincial Dragoons to serve during the war, as many of the men wished to join me. Major Glegg, formerly Gen. Brock's A. D. C., appeared to be particularly anxious for me to go on with it, promising to get me recruiting orders immediately. However, as soon as he found my father and Captain Hamilton had offered he cut me, tho' wishing me to serve as a lieutenant, which I positively refused. My father was the best courtier of the three [and] got the troop. At least [he] was to have it after he raised it, which was under very disadvantageous terms. Neither Capt. Hamilton or myself were anxious to get it when we found the other had an idea of it. I went quietly home, entered into a contract for timber, &c., [and] made more money in a week than I had during the war. [I] was preparing to go down to Montreal [to] bring up goods, &c. After receiving the letter in Sept. last had more confidence, was quite in high spirits, in fact I had made a peace the ensuing spring in my own warm imagination. However, the pleasing dream was of short duration. My father having undertaken it and not getting on in the recruiting way as fast as he was first led to believe, finding the fatigue and trouble more than he could well bear, he got completely tired of it. Gen. Vincent, then commanding, pitched on me to go on with it, as a corps of that description was very much wanted; accordingly on the 11th March I was sent for, and finding it would be impossible to remain at home and attend to any business whatever when the country was in danger of an invasion, I accepted of the appointment, my father, which was more proper, going home in my place. I was, as usual, promised every encouragement and assistance from every officer in command. The arrangement was previously agreed to by my father, much against my will. The men had to find their own horses, [received a] very small bounty and pay, only 15d for man and horse. The men [were] to be regularly enlisted to serve during the war, and subject to corporal punishment. At the same time there were a corps of Royal Artillery Drivers raising, a comp[any] of Incorp[orated] Artillery and three regiments of Incorp[orated] Militia, all on much more favorable terms than the Dragoons. I was determined, however, to persevere if possible, since I had undertaken it. Mr. Ingersoll had been promised a lieutenancy by my father; of course he continued [with me]. I promoted my friend Mr. McKenney to a cornetcy. He was a private in the militia dragoons at the commencement of the war. He was with me during the last campaign, scarcely a day off duty, [and] by his merit was appointed gradually to the rank of quartermaster. I sent him to Fort Erie, Lieut. Ingersoll to York, and serg[ean]ts in

different parts of the country, and remained in Niagara and its vicinity. The first week, to my great astonishment, I passed 25 men. I was under the necessity of purchasing horses and was put to very great expense. When [the] Maj[or]-Gen[era]l and others found I was getting on so well [they] threw every obstacle in my way; 4 or 5 men [were] taken away and put into other corps, the officers of which all conspired against me. [They] was jealous of so young a man getting the command of a separate corps, by which means I doubled my exertions, likewise my friends. Lt. Barnard, Staff Adj. to Col. Bisshopp, enlisted two or three men for me himself, and done everything in his power to assist me, likewise Capt. Hamilton and many others. My men came in so fast that the Gen[eral] thought it was very easy getting them, and made many difficulties in passing them, particularly the horses, which certainly were not of the best. It was very difficult getting young men to enlist as private soldiers who was able to keep a good horse. I conceived myself so ill-used by certain off[icers] I was on the point of giving it up after nearly completing the complement. The men hearing it came to me [and] represented the situation they were in so forcibly it was impossible to leave them. On the 24th my different parties came in. On the 25th I completed the complement of two subalterns, sergt.-major, three sergts., two corporals, trumpeter and forty men, all fine stout able-bodied men. I was much indebted to the exertions of Cornet McKenney in raising them. We were in orders from that date: Most of the other corps fell through. The appointments promised for the troop not arriving they were in a sad condition. My attention was entirely taken up in directing and getting them in order. I was flattered with an idea of keeping them together and having an opportunity of their distinguishing themselves. They were no sooner mounted than they were dispersed over the country in different directions. I meant to do my duty, but gave up all hopes of doing anything with them. They were made post-boys and orderlies to the very gent[lemen] who hindered their formation.

(From the Merritt MSS.)

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**Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.**

YORK, March 29th, 1813.

(Extract.)

The increased importance of this place and of the communication of this side of the lake rendering it necessary in my opinion to add to the force employed here as far as the means at my disposal may make it practicable, and to appoint an officer of suitable

rank and of experience and ability to the command in these districts, I have directed Colonel Myers to repair to this post to assume the command in the Home and Newcastle districts. This nomination is moreover recommended by the benefit that the marine department is likely to derive from his having the dockyard here immediately under his eye, and the communication with that of Kingston so much shortened.

(Enclosed in Sir R. Sheaffe's letter to Lord Bathurst of 18th May, 1813. Canadian Archives, Q. 317, p. 131.)

### **The Secretary of War to General Dearborn.**

WAR DEPARTMENT, March 29, 1813.

(Extract.)

Your letters of the 11th and 14th instant from Sackett's Harbor, and one of the 22d from Albany, have been received. The correspondence between you and Major Murray in relation to an exchange of prisoners has been referred to the Department of State. The alteration in the plan of campaign, so as to make Kingston the last object instead of making it the first, would appear to be necessary, or at least proper, but the force assigned to the attack of the upper posts is believed to be too small.

Accident may prevent a co-operation of the corps at Buffalo. That sent from Sackett's Harbor should have in itself the power of reducing Forts George and Erie, and holding in check the militia who may be sent to support them. The ships can give little aid in the business, except merely in covering the landing. Double the number you propose sending would not be too many. Various considerations recommend the employment of a large and decisive force, and none that I can think of dissuade from it. If our first step in the campaign and in the quarter from which most is expected should fail, the disgrace of our arms will be complete. The public will lose all confidence in us, and we will even cease to have any in ourselves. The party who first opens a campaign has many advantages over his antagonist, all of which, however, are the result of his being able to carry his whole force against a part of his enemies. Washington carried his whole force against the Hessians in New Jersey, and beating them recovered that moral strength, that self confidence which he had lost by many preceding disasters. We are now in that state of prostration he was in after he crossed the Delaware, but, like him, we may soon get on our legs again if we can give some hard blows at the opening of the campaign. In this we cannot fail provided the force we employ against his western posts be sufficiently heavy. They must stand or fall by their own strength. They are perfectly isolated and out of reach

of reinforcements; send therefore a force that shall overwhelm them, that shall leave nothing to chance. If I had not another motive I would carry my whole strength, merely that their first service should be a successful one. The good effects of this will be felt throughout the campaign.

I have hastened to give you these thoughts under the full conviction of their usefulness, and shall only add that there is no drawback upon this policy. When the fleet and army are gone we have nothing to guard at Sackett's Harbor, nor will the place present an object to the enemy.

How then would it read that we had lost our object on the Niagara while we had another brigade at Sackett's Harbor doing nothing?

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. 1.)

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**(From the Buffalo Gazette, 30th March, 1813.)**

Last week Capt. Perry of the U. S. Navy arrived in the village on his way to Erie, Pa., to superintend the completing and fitting out a naval force at that place. The Captain, we understand, will command the American force on Lake Erie the ensuing summer.

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### **General Orders.**

HARRISBURG, March 31, 1813.

*To N. B. Boileau, Aid-de-Camp:*

A requisition having been made by the executive authority of the General Government that I would order on service for the protection of our naval armament at the town of Erie, in the county of Erie, within the State of Pennsylvania, a detachment of militia. Therefore in compliance with the said requisition I order into the military service of the Union, to rendezvous at the said town of Erie on or before the 20th day of April next, a detachment to consist of one thousand men, to be drafted from the Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Divisions, and of Captain Samuel Thomas's company of artillery of the Ninth Division, who have patriotically volunteered their services to the Governor, which detachment shall be organized and officered agreeably to the rules and regulations that obtain in the Army of the United States, recognized by an act of the Legislature of this State, passed the 29th inst., and agreeably also to the several other laws of this State relative to the militia so far set forth as such laws will apply to and come in aid of the orders of the Secretary at War, and the special provisions of the said law of the 29th inst., of which detachment I have constituted Rees Hill,

Esq., of Greene County, Colonel by commission under the Great Seal of the State, who is to obey and execute all orders that issue to him from his superior officer of the United States army. On the officers and privates under his command strict obedience is enjoined to all his orders and commands, so long as the detachment shall remain in the service of the United States. The Commander in Chief with pleasure and with pride quotes from a letter to him from General William H. Harrison an encomium highly to the credit of the detachment of Pennsylvania militia under his command, as worthy of the imitation of our citizen soldiers: "I can assure you there is no corps on whom I rely with more confidence, not only for the fidelity of undaunted courage in the field, but for those virtues which are more rarely found amongst the militia—patience and fortitude under great deprivations and cheerful obedience to all commands of their officers."

(Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. XII., pp. 638-9.)

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### **General Dearborn to the Secretary of War.**

(Without date.)

(Extract.)

To take or destroy the armed vessels at York will give us the complete command of the lake. Commodore Chauncey can take with him ten or twelve hundred troops to be commanded by Pike; take York, from thence proceed to Niagara and attack Fort George by land and water, while the troops at Buffalo cross over and carry Forts Erie and Chippawa, and join those at Fort George, and then collect our whole force for an attack on Kingston. After the most mature deliberation the above was considered by Commodore Chauncey and myself as the most certain of ultimate success.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I.)

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### **Militia General Orders.**

HEADQUARTERS, YORK, 3d April, 1813.

His Honor the Major-General commanding has under consideration a system for the regulation and government of the Incorporated Militia of this Province, which when matured will be published. His Honor has thought it proper in the meantime to authorize the officers commanding in the several districts to issue, as occasion may require, such orders as may be necessary for regulating their interior economy and their management in such matters as are not already

provided for by the militia act, by special authority from himself or by orders now in force respecting the militia generally when on duty.

By order,  
ÆNEAS SHAW,  
Adj't. Gen'l, Militia.

### Militia General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, YORK, 3d April, 1813.

His Honor the Major-General commanding is pleased to direct that a detachment of the militia, consisting of one major, one captain, one lieutenant, one ensign, three sergeants and sixty privates be formed to join a detachment of troops of the line to be stationed at Jones's and houses adjacent at the head of the lake. The under-mentioned regiments will furnish the following quota:—

|                     | Maj'r. | Capt. | Lt. | Ena. | Sergts. | Privates. |
|---------------------|--------|-------|-----|------|---------|-----------|
| 2d Regt. York ..... |        |       | 1   |      | 1       | 20        |
| 4th Lincoln .....   |        | 1     |     |      | 1       | 20        |
| 5th Lincoln .....   | 1      |       |     | 1    | 1       | 20        |
|                     | 1      | 1     | 1   | 1    | 3       | 60        |

His Honor approves of Captain Willm. Crooks for this detachment and directs active, intelligent subalterns be selected. The arms and accoutrements collected by Colonel Beasley, (if not sent to Fort George), directed to be transferred to Major Simons will furnish equipments to the detachment from the 2d Regt. of York.

By order,  
ÆNEAS SHAW,  
Adj't. Gen'l, Militia.

### District General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, YORK, 3d April, 1813.

At a general Court Martial assembled at Kingston from the 8th to the 24th of March, 1813, inclusive, were tried the following prisoners, viz:—

1. Captain John Howell of the Prince Edward Militia under the following charge:

For ungentlemanlike conduct unbecoming the character of an officer and a gentleman, in defrauding his company out of a part of their provisions, on or about the 15th January, 1813.

On which charge the Court came to the following decision: That the prisoner, Captain John Howell of the Prince Edward



Militia, is *not guilty* of the charge preferred against him and therefore *acquit* him.

His Honor the Major-General commanding confirms the above sentence, but he must at the same time observe, though the evidence on the side of the prosecution in this case may not have been deemed sufficient to substantiate the very serious charge produced against Captain Howell, yet it discloses circumstances which tend to prove that proper attention was not paid by him to the rightful claims of his company, and that he did not as his duty required of him ascertain that his men received their due proportion of bread.

In his defence Captain Howell states that those who prosecuted him were governed by malice because he had been the cause of their being sent back to their duty after desertion. This is a mere allegation, unsupported by any proof, and is the less worthy of attention as it appears that one of the witnesses on the prosecution is a sergeant and being on his oath he declared that he received but one loaf of bread from the 15th to the 24th of January.

His Honor, taking the whole case into consideration, is pleased to direct that it be signified to him that his services in the militia are dispensed with until further orders.

Colonel Pearson is directed to report to His Honor the Major-General commanding if the claims of men of Captain Howell's late company for bread from the 15th to the 24th of January have been settled and if not how much is due, to whom and by whom, the investigations of the court not having been carried to such a length as to have produced satisfactory information on those points.

2. Ensign Benjamin C. Spencer of the Lennox Militia, tried on the following charge: For neglect of duty in absenting himself without leave from his piquet at Murray's Point on the evening or night of the 6th March, 1813. On which charge the court came to the following decision: That Ensign Benjamin C. Spencer of the Lennox Militia is *guilty* of the crime laid to his charge, and doth therefore sentence him to be publicly reprimanded at such time and place as His Honor Major-General Sheaffe shall direct.

His Honor the Major-General commanding is pleased to approve of the foregoing opinion and sentence, but he thinks it proper to remark that a severer sentence might have been justifiable for such a neglect of duty, especially at a time when Kingston was menaced with an attack. The importance and necessity of the most unremitting vigilance under such circumstances cannot be too strongly impressed on the mind of every officer and soldier.

His Honor considering this notice of the conviction of Ensign Spencer and of his approbation of it as equivalent to a public reprimand, dispenses with any other mode of carrying the sentence into

execution, and with the hope that Ensign Spencer's future conduct will form a proper example for those under his command,

His Honor directs that he be released from his arrest and return to his duty.

3. Theron Gun, private in Captain Hawley's company of Addington Militia, upon the following charge: For attempting to desert to the enemy on or about the 11th March, 1813. On which the court came to the following decision: That the prisoner, Theron Gun, private in the Addington Militia, is *guilty* of the crime laid to his charge, and doth therefore adjudge him to be transported as a felon, for the term of seven years, to any of His Majesty's dominions, at such time and place as His Honor Major-General Sheaffe may be pleased to direct.

His Honor the Major-General commanding approves of the sentence and is pleased to direct that the prisoner be kept in custody at Kingston until further orders shall be given for his being escorted to Quebec, to be there embarked for the place of his destination.

4. Zachariah Shoefelt, private in Captain Hawley's company of Addington Militia, upon the following charge, viz. :—

For attempting to desert to the enemy on or about 11th March, 1813. On which the Court came to the following decision: That the prisoner, Zachariah Shoefelt, private of the Addington Militia, is *guilty* of desertion but not to the enemy, and doth therefore adjudge him to be imprisoned for six calendar months in the common cells of this county, two months upon bread and water and four months on his usual allowance.

His Honor the Major-General commanding approves of the sentence and is pleased to direct that it be carried into execution under the direction of the officer commanding the Midland District.

5. James Hannan, private in Captain Robins' company of the Frontenac Militia, upon the following charges, viz. :—

1st—For attempting to desert to the enemy on the night of the 18th of March, 1813.

2d—For endeavoring to seduce two privates of the Glengarry Light Infantry to desert to the enemy on or about the 18th of March, 1813. On which charges the Court came to the following decision: That the prisoner, James Hannan, private in the Frontenac Militia, is *guilty* of the crimes laid to his charge and doth therefore adjudge him to be *shot to death* at such time and place as His Honor Major-General Sheaffe may be pleased to direct.

His Honor the Major-General commanding approves the award of the Court, but is pleased to extend his clemency to the prisoner and to commute his punishment for transportation for life; he will

be kept in custody at Kingston till further orders shall be issued for his removal to Quebec, preparatory to his being embarked for the place of his destination.

6. Amos Wright, private in Captain Markland's company of Frontenac Militia, upon the following charges, viz. :—

1st—Attempting to desert to the enemy on the night of the 18th March, 1813.

2d—Endeavoring to seduce two privates of the Glengarry Light Infantry to desert to the enemy on the night of the 18th March, 1813. On which charges the Court came to the following decision: That the prisoner, Amos Wright, private in the Frontenac Militia, is *guilty* of the crimes laid to his charge and doth therefore sentence him to be transported as a felon for the term of seven years, to any of His Majesty's dominions, at such time and place as His Honor Major-General Sheaffe may be pleased to direct.

His Honor the Major-General commanding approves the sentence of the Court and is pleased to direct that the prisoner be kept in custody at Kingston until orders shall be issued for his embarkation for the place of his destination.

7. West Wright, private in Captain Robins's company of the Frontenac Militia, on the following charges: 1st—Attempting to desert to the enemy on the night of the 18th March, 1813. 2d—Endeavoring to seduce two privates of the Glengarry Light Infantry to desert to the enemy on or about the 18th March, 1813. On which charges the Court came to the following decision: That the prisoner, West Wright, private in the Frontenac Militia, is *guilty* of the first charge, but acquit him of the second charge, and doth therefore sentence him to be transported as a felon for the term of three years, to any of His Majesty's dominions, at such time and place as His Honor Major-General Sheaffe may be pleased to direct.

His Honor the Major-General commanding approves the sentence, but in consideration of the very strong terms in which the Court has recommended the prisoner to the mercy of His Honor he is pleased to remit the punishment which he was adjudged to suffer, and to direct that he be released and return to his duty, which His Honor trusts will be performed with a due sense of the lenity which has been shown to him, and of the obligation imposed on him to execute it as becomes a faithful subject and a good soldier.

By order,

N. COFFIN.

P. A. D. Camp.

**Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe to Earl Bathurst.**

YORK, 5th April, 1813.

MY LORD :—

Many motives both of a civil and military nature combined to detain me here longer than I expected, but I hope to be able to return to Fort George in the course of a few days. I wish particularly to see this place put into a more respectable state of defence before my departure, as I think it probable that the enemy may make some attempt on it in the spring. At present his flotilla is locked up in the ice in Sackett's Harbour. It would be an object of no small importance to him to destroy the ship building here, it being larger than any which were ever floated on these lakes. I need not enlarge on the subject of our naval preparation, as Your Lordship will receive ample details on it from Sir George Prevost.

My last intelligence from Brigadier-General Procter was of the 21st of March. At that time General Harrison with about 2,000 men had entrenched himself near the foot of the rapids of the Miamis. The rivers and the country in general were in such a state from the breaking up of the winter that offensive operations were suspended. The flank companies of the 41st Regiment have been sent to Brigadier-General Procter since his defeat of General Winchester's corps, and he has a considerable number of Indians near him, which will be much increased in the spring.

I have accounts from Captain Roberts, commanding at Michilimackinac, to the 19th of March. He had received information of the movement of 4,000 Americans under General Clarke up the Mississippi, with the design of gaining Lake Michigan by the Ouisconsin. The Sioux and other numerous tribes had declared an intention of acting with the utmost vigour against them, in aid of which purpose Captain Roberts had furnished them with some supplies. It was supposed by the Americans that they were destitute of gunpowder. Mr. Robert Dickson, whose influence is extensive amongst the Indians in that country and who unites discretion with great courage and ability, will probably have joined them before they commenced their operations.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 317, p. 114.)

**Major-General Dearborn to the Secretary of War.**

ALBANY, April 5, 1813.

(Extract.)

I have this day been honored with your letter of the 29th ultimo. As troops cannot with safety be transported from Sackett's Harbor to York or Niagara in *batteaux* or *flatbottomed* boats, I

must depend on Commodore Chauncey's armed vessels, with one or two other sloops, for the transportation of our troops, and it was considered doubtful whether more than twelve hundred men could be so conveyed, which number I considered amply sufficient for the two first objects contemplated, but as many as can be transported with safety shall be sent. The co-operation of the troops under General Lewis may be relied on. Boyd and Winder are with him, and nothing but outrageous gales of wind can prevent success.

The troops from Maryland and Pennsylvania arrived last evening. They, with other detachments at Greenbush, will proceed towards Lake Ontario within two or three days. As soon as practicable after sending off the troops, I shall move westward.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I.)

### **The Secretary of War to General Dearborn.**

WAR DEPARTMENT, April 19, 1813.

SIR,—Taking for granted that General Prevost has not been able or willing to reinforce Malden, Erie and George, and that he has assembled at Kingston a force of *six or eight thousand* men, (as stated by you), we must conclude that he means to hazard his western posts, shorten his line of defence and place his right flank on Lake Ontario.

This arrangement is no doubt in consequence of our preparations at Sackett's Harbor. These gave him reason to fear that we meant to cut his line of communication at that point, which so long as he has a hope of keeping the command of the lake is one of infinite importance to his views.

The danger, however, now is that in the event of the success of our present expedition he may lose this hope, abandon Kingston, and concentrate his forces at Montreal.

This event is in my opinion so probable as to render necessary a communication of the views of the President in relation to the movements on your part, (which shall be subsequent to those now making), on two suppositions:

1st—That the enemy will keep his ground at Kingston, and

2nd—That he will abandon that ground and withdraw to Montreal.

On the first supposition there is no difficulty in either selecting our object or the means of pursuing it. We ought to destroy the communication between Kingston and Montreal by interposing a competent force between the two, and assailing the former by a joint operation of military and naval means.

Local circumstances favor this project. A few armed boats on

Lake St. Francis stops all intercourse by water, in which case cannon, military stores and articles of subsistence in *bulk* cannot be conveyed between Montreal and Kingston.

From Lake Ontario to Ogdensburg we command the navigation of the St. Lawrence by our armed vessels, and under their protection our army can be passed over and established on the Canada side, at the point deemed most proper for attack.

On the other supposition, that the British garrison is withdrawn from Kingston to Montreal, the old question of approaching him by Lake Champlain or the St. Lawrence recurs, and ought now to be settled so that there should be no unnecessary pause in our operations at a later and more momentous period of the campaign.

The circumstances in favor of the St. Lawrence route are these :

1st—Our force is now upon it.

2nd—It furnishes a conveyance by water the whole distance.

3d—The enemy is not fortified on the St. Lawrence side, and has on it no strong outposts which must be forced in order to secure our flanks and rear while engaged in the main attack, and

4th—By approaching his *flank*, (as this route enables you to do,) instead of his *front* we compel him to change his position, in which case he must do one of four things: Either he must occupy the north side of the river and give up the south, or he must occupy the south side and give up the north, or he must confine himself to the island and give up both sides, or, lastly, he must occupy both sides, and in this case expose himself to be beaten in detail.

None of these advantages are to be found in approaching him by the other route. Our troops are not upon it; we cannot move by water; his outposts are fortified and must be carried by assault; his front is the only assailable point, and that is covered by the St. Lawrence; our attack must be made exactly where he wishes it to be made; all of his arrangements and defences are of course in full operation, nor is he compelled to disturb them in the smallest degree. In a word, we must fight him on *his* previous disposition and plans and not on any of *our own*.

These results are deemed conclusive for preferring the route of the St. Lawrence, and your measures, (subsequent to your present expedition,) will therefore be conformed to this view of the subject.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I.)

7th April, 1813.

**Suggestions (Probably by Col. Wm. Claus.)**

All officers of the militia should be well informed in the militia laws of the land, without a knowledge of which they will not be

carried into effect, and unless carried into effect there had better be no such laws.

All officers should be able in person to perform the manual and platoon manual exercise, with some of the eighteen manœuvres, so that they may be able to instruct the men committed to their charge.

Officers ought to be particularly attentive to all legal orders issued by their superiors on militia duties, and should adhere strictly to form of rolls, returns, &c., &c., &c. Without regularity and uniformity a regiment cannot be brought into method, and without subordination all will be tumult and confusion.

Meetings for enrollment should be more attended to than they heretofore have been by captains and officers commanding companies.

Officers commanding companies should never give in their rolls on returning without first signing their names to the same, with the rank they hold.

Officers should be very particular in having their rolls correct, and should consider that it is highly oppressive to summon them before the Justices of the Peace charged with having been absent from regimental or company meetings when probably many of these men returned absent were either out of the limits of the company or not legally notified to attend the meeting of the regiment or company.

Officers commanding companies should remember that it is their duty to bring defaulters to justice by applying for summons, &c., &c., &c., to the magistrates, and not the duty of the Colonel or officer commanding the regiment.

(From the Roll Book of Captain John D. Servos, Niagara Historical Society.)

### **Militia General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, YORK, 7th April, 1813.

His Honor the Major-General commanding, deeming it proper there should be a militia force assembled for the protection of the Lake Erie frontier, one field officer, 2 captains, 3 subalterns, 4 sergeants and 80 rank and file will be stationed at Turkey Point; one captain, 2 subs., 3 sergeants and 50 rank and file at Dover Mills, and one sub., 1 sergeant, 20 rank and file at Port Talbot.

The undermentioned regiments will furnish this force in the following proportions, which will be relieved monthly:

The 1st and 2d Regts. of Norfolk.

1 capt., 2 subs., 2 sergts., 50 R. and file each..... 100

## The 1st Regt. of Oxford.

|                                                 |    |
|-------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1 capt., 1 sub., 2 sergts., 30 R. and file..... | 30 |
|-------------------------------------------------|----|

## The 1st Regt. of Middlesex.

|                                        |    |
|----------------------------------------|----|
| 1 sub., 2 sergts., 20 R. and file..... | 20 |
|----------------------------------------|----|

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150

His Honor approves of Major Bowen, 1st Regt. of Norfolk, for this service.

By order,

ÆNEAS SHAW,  
Adj't. Gen'l., Militia.

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**Regulations for the Incorporated Militia.**

1st—Quota to be raised for each rank :

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Lieut.-Colonel..... | 40 |
| Major.....          | 30 |
| Captain.....        | 20 |
| Lieutenant.....     | 10 |
| Ensign.....         | 5  |

2—The number to form the battalion is not to be confined to that which the officers are required to raise, but may be extended to fifty privates a company.

3—Each company to have

One Captain, three Sergeants,  
One Lieutenant, three Corporals,  
One Ensign, one Drummer.

4—An adjutant, quartermaster, sergeant-major and quartermaster sergeant may be obtained from the line if practicable, or otherwise a fit person to be selected.

5—The officers are to be named for the President's approval, but those recommended are to receive a recruiting order, and if not finally confirmed they will be allowed pay for the time they may be employed on the recruiting service.

6—The officers to receive pay for their respective ranks from the date of their recruiting orders if they complete their quota within a month. Those who do not will receive pay from the commencement of the month in which they shall have raised their number, the month to be reckoned from the date of the recruiting orders.

7—An engagement to be entered into by the volunteer in the form of a declaration (in duplicate) with the signature of two witnesses. The eight dollars granted as a bounty by the Legislature for each volunteer are to be given to him, besides which His Honor Major-General Sheaffe authorizes ten dollars to be laid out for each



man to provide him with all articles of necessaries. This money is to be considered as under the direction of the Commanding Officer of the battalion, if not hereafter otherwise directed.

8—A suit of clothing will be furnished for each man, with arms, accoutrements and other equipments.

9—The officers and men will have the usual pay and allowances of regiments of the line.

10—It is His Honor Major-General Sheaffe's intention to recommend the services of the Incorporated Militia to the favorable consideration of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent for a grant of land.

11—Men from sixteen to forty-five years of age may be taken if strong and healthy.

12—The officers are to continue their exertions to obtain men until the number to be raised by the whole is completed, after which volunteers may be received at the quarters of the battalion until the number exceeds fifty privates a company, when a special report of the surplus is to be made by the commanding officer to the President, and of the probable addition that will be made to it.

13—No man to be entered but as a private, tho' it may be intended to raise him to the rank of corporal or sergeant.

14—Each volunteer is to be seen by the commanding officer of the district, or by an inspecting field officer of the militia, or by such officer as the commanding officer may find it expedient to appoint, for the purpose of ascertaining that he is, as the 11th article requires, strong and healthy, as none but those who are fit for active service are to be accepted.

15—It is positively forbidden to endeavor to influence any man to volunteer for the Incorporated Militia by giving him any hope, promise or assurance whatsoever of his becoming entitled thereby to any more on the part of the government than is authorized by acts of the legislature, or engaged for in the foregoing instructions. Any disregard of this injunction will be noticed with severity.

By order,

ÆNEAS SHAW,

Adj. Gen'l, Mila., U. C.

### **Form of Enrollment of the Incorporated Militia.**

We, the subscribers, do acknowledge that we have voluntarily enrolled ourselves to serve in the Incorporated Militia of this Province according to law :

| Date of Enroll't. | Names of Vols. | Age. | Place of Resid'e. | Names of the Witnesses to Sign's or Marks. |
|-------------------|----------------|------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------|
|-------------------|----------------|------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------|

**Speech of the President of the United States to the Six Nations.****BROTHERS OF THE SIX NATIONS:—**

Through our sub-agent and interpreter, Jasper Parrish, you have expressed some uneasiness with regard to the attacks of the British upon your wives and children. Be not disquieted. Should the enemy cross the Niagara river you will be removed to a place of safety. Others of your red brethren have been so removed. They were honest to us and were therefore hated and menaced by the British. They are now eating our bread in the State of Ohio and in places of safety.

**MY BROTHERS,**—While on this subject let me offer to you my advice that during the war you should gather yourselves together and move to your reserved tract on the head waters of the Alleghany, where you may work and sleep in safety.

**MY BROTHERS,**—You have also expressed some fears lest your annuities and the interest on your bank stock should not be punctually paid. Bad men have raised in you these doubts. Listen to such no longer. Have not your claims upon us been punctually paid hitherto? And can you have a better assurance of our future conduct towards you than what is furnished by your own experience of that which is past. It is true that the quantity of goods payable as part of your annuity is somewhat less than it was formerly, but this is the effect of the war forced upon us by the British. They therefore are the true causes of this evil.

**MY BROTHERS,**—Continue your good faith to the United States and trust to their justice and kindness.

War Department,

April 8th, 1803. (*Sic.*)

By order of the President of the U. States.

JOHN ARMSTRONG,

Secretary of War.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 406-7. New York State Library.)

(From the Buffalo Gazette, 13th April, 1813.)

Lake Erie, from present appearances, will be entirely clear of ice within a few days.

We learn from a gentleman from Lewiston that a cannonading was heard at 18 Mile Creek in the direction of Little York.

A number of ship carpenters passed thro' this place some time since for the navy yard at Erie (Presqu' Isle.) Last week several sailors also passed this village for the same place. Ship carpenters and sailors recently passed Pittsburg destined for Erie.

It is stated that a body of 4 or 500 seamen and marines will be collected at Erie in a short time. Several sailors stationed at the Rock have departed for that place. We understand that the remainder are ordered for Sackett's Harbor.

The vessels purchased by government last fall at Black Rock and intended to have been fitted out as an armed force on the lake have, as we understand, been abandoned, it being considered almost impossible to tow them up the rapids while the enemy were in possession of the opposite shore.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

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**Extract of a Letter from Brig.-General Vincent, Addressed to Sir R. H. Sheaffe.**

FORT GEORGE, 15th April, 1813.

I have to report that Lieut. FitzGibbon, 49th Regiment, on the 13th inst. discovered some persons on Strawberry Island, manned a boat and made prisoners a Lieut. Dudley, U. S. Navy, three seamen, Doctor Trowbridge and a Mr. Merrill of Buffalo. As I have it not in my power to send them over on parole from the late order thro' the Military Secretary to Colonel Myers, and I do not think it advisable to suffer them to remain here for a day, I shall therefore send those gentlemen with two other prisoners in the boats for York, to be kept there or sent to Quebec at your pleasure.

(Canadian Archives, C. 678.)

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**From the Memoirs of Colonel John Clark of Port Dalhousie.**

Lieut. FitzGibbon of the 49th Regiment had a separate command, composed of all the men whose names figured in the regimental records as notoriously troublesome characters, who were ever and anon the subjects of court martial.

They were all Irishmen, speaking the Irish vernacular, as did their countryman the chief.

His duty was principally to collect information of the enemy's movements, and do everything in his power to annoy them.

On the occasion I am about to narrate he was scouting on the banks of the Niagara River opposite Grand Island.

Observing two officers in a dug out leave the main and proceed to the island he decided to apprehend these gentlemen, and with one of his sergeants proceeded in a boat to the same place.

He pounced on them as, nose to nose, one was giving to his friend the light from his cigar. This was most unexpected, and the menacing point of a bayonet in close proximity to each of their

persons, and the very intelligible order of "Drop your pistols to the ground and surrender or we will bury our bayonets in your body," was a suggestion that these two gentlemen knew not how to get over otherwise than by a ready compliance, and they became prisoners of war.

They now made an appeal to FitzGibbon's honour, stating that they came to the island to settle an affair of honour and that their adversaries would soon join them. On hearing this, to which he turned a deaf ear, he placed the two gentlemen in charge of a sergeant and proceeded in quest of the adverse party.

Looking towards the American shore he saw a second dug-out leave the main and proceed to the island. Quietly and in rifleman style he trees himself close to the landing. As the dug-out grated on the sands he covered them with his "Brown Bess," called out to them to surrender and land immediately without arms or they were dead men. Surprised at such a reception, bewildered, not knowing how many men were backing the British soldier, they disembarked, leaving their duelling pistols in the canoe, and were then marched off a few paces to the rear of his position and introduced to their adversaries.

(Communicated by Lieut. Driscoll, 100th Regt., MSS. of Dr. Clark, St. Catharines.)

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### **Militia General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, YORK, 16th April, 1813.

His Honor the Major-General commanding has been pleased to make the following appointment :

3RD REGT., LINCOLN.

Major John Warren to be Lieut.-Colonel, *vice* Warren who resigns—16th April, 1813.

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**Captain Robert R. Loring, A. D. C. to Major-General Sheaffe, to Mr. Freer.**

HEADQUARTERS, YORK, 19th April, 1813.

SIR,—I enclose by direction of Sir Roger H. Sheaffe 3 papers :

1. Being a copy of a letter from Brig.-General Procter.
2. Proposed alteration for paying Indian Department.
3. Copy of a letter from M. S. to Governor Gore. This last may save you the trouble of searching for it in your office.

Sir Roger desires me to say that he is exceedingly anxious for a supply of money, according to his requisition lately transmitted, the balance of the £37,000 lately received not being sufficient to pay the militia.

I am further ordered to inform you that Sir Roger has thought it advisable to purchase a small sloop at this place, called the *Mary Ann*, for £200 Hal. currency, as she can be employed with much benefit to the service as a transport.

(Canadian Archives, C. 257, p. 78.)

**Major-General Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.**

YORK, 19th April, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor of transmitting to Your Excellency the copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. Dickson, with extracts of letters from Brigadier-Generals Vincent and Procter, and the copy of one from Captain Johnston of the 49th Regiment respecting Lieut. Dudley of the United States navy, lately taken prisoner. He and his companions have not yet arrived here. They must be detained here a short time, as all the boats I can procure will be employed in bringing up troops, stores and baggage. One company of the King's Regiment has proceeded to Fort George, a half company arrived last night and goes on to-day, and I expect a company, (Capt. Goldrick's) at noon, which will also proceed to-day, and five boats go down the lake to bring up the militia clothing, (which I have just learnt has been left about seventy miles from hence,) and also to furnish aid to the troops on their march.

I have for some time daily expected the arrival of Colonel Young, having been informed by Lieut. Kerr of the Glengarry corps that he was to come on without delay for Fort George, but I have the mortification of being told to-day that he is to remain at Kingston until his regiment has passed that post. I have, however, consolation for being so long detained here, in the belief that it has proved in some degree beneficial to the service. I have written to Colonel Young to hasten his progress towards me.

Captain Norton is here and is so urgent for my assent to his going back to Detroit, pleading that he had engaged his word to the Indians there for his speedy return, that I cannot withhold it; he promises not to stay long away from me, even for a short time with great reluctance.

(Canadian Archives, C. 678, p. 170.)

(From the *Buffalo Gazette*, 20th April, 1813.)

On Saturday last arrived in this village Major-General Lewis, accompanied by Brigadier-General Boyd. Capt. Gibson is one of General Lewis's aids. On their arrival they were very handsomely saluted by the troops stationed in the village, the flying artillery under Captain Leonard, the infantry under Colonel Milton.

**Petty Warfare**—On the morning of the 13th, at sunrise, a sporting party, consisting of Lieut. Dudley of the U. S. Navy stationed at Black Rock, Dr. J. Trowbridge and F. B. Merrill of the village, attended by 3 seamen, proceeded from the navy yard to Strawberry Island near the head of Grand Island, for the purpose of hunting water fowl. Owing to the ice running in large quantities they supposed their situation was perfectly secure. At 9 o'clock a party of the British of 14 men, commanded by Lieut. FitzGibbon of the 49th Regt., landed unperceived and made them prisoners. They were sent the same day to Fort George. Dr. Trowbridge and Mr. Merrill were permitted to return on this side on the 15th at Fort Niagara. They inform us that they had an opportunity of seeing most of the officers from Fort Erie to Fort George, and they were all of the 49th except two who belonged to the Glengarry Regiment, a Provincial corps, so that calculating from this circumstance it is not probable that the British force in round numbers can amount to more than 1,000 men from Fort Erie to Fort George. The British officers stated that General Procter, (formerly Colonel Procter,) had proceeded against General Harrison with a considerable body of troops, composed of regulars, militia and Indians.

Contrary to the invariable practice of the officers of the U. S. Navy to British officers in similar situations, who have been paroled or exchanged immediately, Lieut. Dudley, it is believed, will be tortured with a long and fatiguing journey to Boston *via* Quebec.

Lieut. FitzGibbon assigned as one reason for capturing the sportsmen that he had suspected them of going to the island to settle an *affair of honor*.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

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**Memo. by Lieut.-Colonel Glegg.**

State of the troops on the Niagara Line, 20th April, 1813:

| Col.    | M.          | Cpts. | Lts.    | E. | P. M. | Q. Mr. | Adjts.  |
|---------|-------------|-------|---------|----|-------|--------|---------|
| 1       | 3           | 27    | 33      | 21 | 2     | 4      | 2       |
| Surg'n. | Asst. Surg. |       | Sergts. |    | Drs.  |        | R. & F. |
| 2       | 2           |       | 122     |    | 37    |        | 1664    |

(From Memorandum Book in possession of Lieut.-Col. G. Villiers Turner, Reading, England.)

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**Militia General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, YORK, 20th April, 1813.

His Honor Sir Roger H. Sheaffe has been pleased to make the following appointment :

1ST REGT. NORFOLK.

Aquilla H. Walsh, Gent., to be Ensign—20th April, 1813.

By order,

ÆNEAS SHAW,

Adj't. Gen'l, Mila.

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**Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.**

(No 56.)

QUEBEC, 21st April, 1813.

MY LORD :

I have the honour to acknowledge Your Lordship's despatches, Nos. 18 to 20.

The different reports which I have made to Your Lordship of the extraordinary exertions of the enemy to obtain the ascendancy on Lake Ontario, since the commencement of the war with the United States, and of the precautionary measures which I had been obliged to adopt in order to combat them will, I trust, sufficiently account for the feelings which impelled me to the exposition contained in my despatch of the 5th November last, and when Your Lordship brings together all the circumstances of difficulty I have surmounted since the beginning of the contest with America, I do most sincerely hope you will be disposed to view my conduct in a favorable light and to represent it to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

I have had the satisfaction of receiving information of the approach by land of several officers of the navy who have been sent from the Halifax Station to serve in the vessels now building on the lakes.

Not a moment shall be lost after their arrival at Quebec in forwarding them to their destination, as their judgment and experience are essential to the completion of our preparations for ensuring our ascendancy on Lake Ontario, the loss of which would immediately expose Upper Canada to devastation and insult.

To shield that Province from those evils until our little navy is ready to co-operate in its defence, I have marched for its protection a considerable reinforcement of troops of the line from Lower Canada, which I have replaced by an augmentation of its militia force.

That His Royal Highness the Prince Regent may be enabled

to judge of the assistance which has been afforded to His Majesty by his Canadian subjects in the present contest; I have the honour of transmitting a return of the militia of Lower Canada in actual service.

In Upper Canada the difficulties of forming an efficient militia inseparable from a scanty population spread over an extensive surface, and from the emigration to the United States of many who were discontented with or disaffected to the government under which they had placed themselves in time of peace, have rendered it expedient to organize a more regular corps to serve during the war with America, and subject to such regulations as should ensure the establishment of good order and discipline in them.

In order to obtain volunteers for this description of service the Legislature of Upper Canada in its last session made provision for a bounty of eight dollars to each person so engaging to serve, as the utmost encouragement within their means, and I have assented to a proposal from Major-General Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe for augmenting the sum from the extraordinaries of the army, so as to afford the recruit a reasonable outfit.

I am highly pleased that Your Lordship had decided on increasing the number of British seamen ordered to Canada from two to three hundred.

Although the paper of observations which accompanied Your Lordship's despatch No. 20 contains some wise suggestions, by which I shall not fail to benefit, still, as the country has undergone a considerable change by improvement since the writer was acquainted with Upper Canada, many of them are no longer applicable. (See part 4, pp. 332, 333, Letter of Sir Howard Douglas.)

After the affair of Queenston Sir R. H. Sheaffe lost a glorious opportunity of crossing the Niagara River during the confusion and dismay which then prevailed, for the purpose of destroying Fort Niagara, by which the command of the Niagara River would have been secured to us during the war, and Niagara, like Ogdensburg, would have ceased to be an object of disquietude. But the eminent military talents of Sir Isaac Brock having ceased to animate the little army, the advantage of that day was not sufficiently improved.

That I might not diminish the internal causes which it is thought will compel the American Government to seek for peace before the ensuing winter, I have hitherto carefully avoided any offensive movement upon the territory of the United States which was not considered a just and necessary retaliation, thereby hoping to increase the unpopularity of the war and to add to the depression of their public credit.

When the reinforcements from the Mediterranean and the



Baltic arrive in Canada I shall be enabled to act against the enemy with vigour, and to convert my defensive into offensive operations, if such should be the desire of His Majesty's Government.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 121, p. 194.)

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(From the United States Gazette, 2d May, 1813.)

Extract from a letter to the Editor :

On board the Sloop of War *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, April 22, 1813.

About 1,500 troops are now on board the fleet and only wait a fair wind to waft us to the shores of the enemy. Some say our destination is Kingston, others say York, and a few suppose we shall land at Newark and attack Fort George at the mouth of the Niagara, whilst in the meantime we shall give the signal that all may cross and attack the chain of batteries the enemy has thrown up, extending from Fort Erie to our place of landing, Fort George. I cannot say exactly our place of landing, but I think the latter point most probable. General Dearborn will command in person. Brigadier-General Pike will lead the column into action. The troops consist of the remains of the 6th, 15th and 16th regiments, Captain Jones's and another company from the 3rd artillery, Major Forsyth's riflemen and some companies of volunteers with a few of the *undisciplined regulars* who arrived here the other day from Burlington, Vermont. We shall most probably not sail before to-morrow unless [there is] a very favorable wind.

(File in Philadelphia Library.)

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### General Order.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
QUEBEC, 22d April, 1813,

G. O.

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent having been graciously pleased to command that a division of officers and seamen of the Royal Navy should be assigned for the service of His Majesty's fleet on the lakes of Upper Canada, Admiral Sir John Warren, in prompt obedience to His Royal Highness's commands and to accelerate the beneficial effects that cannot fail to accrue from so wise and judicious a measure, has directed Captain Barclay and other officers of the Royal Navy to proceed by land from Halifax, and it is with the highest satisfaction that the Commander of the Forces has the pleasure of announcing to the army the auspicious arrival of these officers for the purpose of assuming the command of His Majesty's

armed vessels on the lakes, and to make the necessary arrangements for now organizing the marine establishment. The officers of the Provincial marine will, for the present, be suitably provided for without diminution of their salaries.

His Excellency feels that he is providing to the troops that unanimity and cordial co-operation which smoothes the rugged path of war and strengthens all its success. The brave soldiers of Upper Canada will greet with heartfelt joy the arrival of a gallant band of British seamen and will cease to view the waters of the lakes as the boundaries of their victories, but as a new field of triumph opening to their arms.

EDWARD BAYNES,  
A. G. N. A.

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**Major-General Dearborn to the Secretary of War.**

SACKETT'S HARBOR, April 23, 1813.

The troops embarked yesterday. Every vessel is crowded with as many men as possible; the total number 1,600 of the best men. I trust we shall sail within one or two hours. If the sails for a new vessel arrives within a day or two, and a small sloop from Oswego which ought to have been here five days since, 150 more men will go in them. The ice did not move until the 19th; I arrived on the 20th.

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**Lieut. Patrick McDonogh, 2d U. S. Artillery, to his Parents.**

BLACK ROCK, April 25th, 1813.

We are fast preparing for the field. I expect that in about four weeks we shall make a move. Our division will consist of about 3,500 or 3,800 regulars, and I don't think any militia will be called on to cross. Our company is attached to the 2d Brigade, commanded by General Winder. It will be about 1,500 strong. General Boyd will have the remainder. Major-General Lewis commands the whole. The Generals have all arrived, and the troops to make up the complement are expected daily. Things appear to be in a better train than they ever were. Colonel Scott, I think, has been ordered to Sackett's Harbor or he would have been here before now.

(From Advance Sheets of the Records of American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia.)

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**Brigade Order.**

SACKETT'S HARBOR, April 25, 1813.

When the debarkation shall take place on the enemy's shore Major Forsyth's light troops, formed in four platoons, shall be first landed. They will advance a small distance from the shore and form the chain to cover the landing of the troops. They will not fire unless they discover the approach of a body of the enemy, but will make *prisoners of every person* who may be passing and send them to the General. They will be followed by the regimental platoons of the first brigade, with two pieces of Brooks's artillery, one on the right and one on the left flank, covered by their musketry and the small detachment of riflemen of the 15th and 16th Infantry. There will be landed the three platoons of the reserve of the first brigade under Major Swan. Then Major Eustis with his train of artillery, covered by his own musketry. Then Colonel McClure's volunteers in four platoons, followed by the 21st Regiment in six platoons. When the troops shall move in column, either to meet the enemy or take a position, it will be in the following order, viz.: 1st—Forsyth's riflemen with proper front and flank guards, the regiments of the first brigade with their pieces, then three platoons of reserve, Major Eustis's train of artillery, Volunteer Corps, Twenty-first Regiment, each corps sending out proper flank guards. When the enemy shall be discovered in force, the riflemen will form the chain and maintain their guard until they have the signal, (the preparative,) or receive orders to retire, at which they will retreat with the greatest velocity and form equally on the two flanks of the regiments of the first brigade and then renew their fire. The three reserve platoons of this line will form under the orders of Major Swan, one hundred yards in rear of the colors, ready to support any part which may show an unsteady countenance. Major Eustis and his train will form in the rear of this reserve, ready to act when circumstances may dictate.

The second line will be composed of the 21st Infantry in six platoons, flanked by Colonel McClure's Volunteers, equally divided as light troops. The whole under the orders of Colonel Ripley.

It is expected that every corps will be mindful of the honor of the *American* army and the disgraces which have recently tarnished our arms, and endeavor by a cool and determined discharge of their duty to support the one and wipe off the other. The riflemen in front will maintain their ground at all hazards until ordered to retire, as will *every corps of the army*, with an assurance of being duly supported. Should the Commanding General find it prudent to withdraw the front line he will give orders to retire by heads of

platoons covered by the riflemen, and the *second line* will advance by the heads of the platoons, pass the intervals and form the line, call in light troops and renew the action. But the General may find it proper to bring up the *second line* on one or both flanks, to charge in column and perform a variety of manœuvres which it would be impossible to foresee. But as a general rule, whatever may be the direction of line at the beginning of the action, the corps will form as before directed. If they then advance in line it may be in parallel echelons of platoons, or otherwise as the ground or circumstances may dictate.

No man will load until ordered, except the light troops in front, until within a short distance of the enemy, and then *charge bayonets*, thus letting the enemy see we can meet them with their own weapons. Any man firing or quitting his post without orders must be put to instant death, as an example may be necessary. Platoon officers will pay the greatest attention to the coolness and aim of their men in the fire, their regularity and dressing in the charge. The field officers will watch over the conduct of the whole. Courage and bravery in the field do not more distinguish the soldier than humanity after victory, and, whatever examples the savage allies of our enemy may have given us, the General confidently hopes that the blood of an unresisting enemy will never stain the weapons of the soldiers of his column.

The unoffending citizens of Canada are many of them our own countrymen, and the Provinces have been forced into the war. Their property therefore must be held sacred, and any soldier who shall so far neglect the honor of his profession as to be guilty of plundering the inhabitants, shall, if convicted, be punished with death. But the Commanding General assures the troops that should they capture a large quantity of *public stores* he will use his best endeavors to procure them a reward from his government.

This order shall be read at the head of each corps, and every field officer shall carry a copy in order that he may at any moment refer to it and give explanations to his subordinates.

All those found in arms in the enemy's country shall be treated as enemies, but those who are peaceably following the pursuits of their various vocations as friends and their property respected.

By order of the Brigadier-General,

CHARLES G. JONES,  
Aid-de-Camp.

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**Memo. by Lieut.-Colonel Glegg.**

27th April, 1813.

|                         |  |         |
|-------------------------|--|---------|
|                         |  | R. & F. |
| 8th or King's Regt..... |  | 338     |
| 41st Regt.....          |  | 493     |
| 49th do. ....           |  | 595     |

---

Line ..... 1436

|            |    |         |
|------------|----|---------|
| 41st Regt. | S. | R. & F. |
|            | 33 | 493     |

(From a memorandum book in possession of Lieut. G. Villiers Turner of 14 Castle Crescent, Reading, England, great nephew of Lieut.-Col. John Baskervyle Glegg.)

**Memorandum by Lieut.-Colonel Glegg.**

State of troops, Niagara line, 27th April. All Regulars.

|         |      |         |
|---------|------|---------|
| Sergts. | Drs. | R. & F. |
| 99      | 45   | 1640    |

R. &amp; F.

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 8th or King's Regt..... | 338 |
| 49th.....               | 621 |

(From memorandum book in possession of Lieut.-Colonel G. Villiers Turner, Reading, England.)

**Terms of Capitulation Entered into on the 27th April, 1813, for  
the Surrender of the Town of York in Upper Canada, to  
the Army and Navy of the United States, under  
Major-General Dearborn and Commodore  
Chauncey.**

That the troops, regular and militia, at this post and the naval officers and seamen, shall be surrendered prisoners of war. The troops, regular and militia, to ground their arms immediately on parade, and the naval officers and seamen be immediately surrendered.

That all public stores, naval and military, shall be immediately given up to the commanding officers of the army and navy of the United States; that all private property shall be guaranteed to the citizens of the town of York.

That all papers belonging to the civil officers shall be retained by them.

That such surgeons as may be procured to attend the wounded of the British regulars and Canadian militia shall not be considered prisoners of war.

That one lieutenant-colonel, one major, thirteen captains, nine

lieutenants, eleven ensigns, one quartermaster, one deputy-adjutant of the militia, namely :

Lieut.-Col. Chewett.

Major Allan.

**Captains.**

John Wilson.

John Button.

Peter Robinson.

Reuben Richardson.

John Arnold.

James Fenwick.

James Mustard.

Duncan Cameron.

David Thompson.

John Robinson.

Samuel Ridout.

Thomas Hamilton.

John Burn.

William Jarvis.

**Quartermaster.**

Charles Baynes.

**Lieutenants.**

John H. Shultz.

George Mustard.

Barnet Vanderbarrack.

Robert Stanton.

George Ridout.

Wm. Jarvis.

Edward McMahon.

John Wilson.

Eli Playter.

**Ensigns.**

Andrew Thompson.

Alfred Senally.

Donald McArthur.

William Smith.

Andrew Mercer.

James Chewett.

George Kick.

Edward Thompson.

Charles Denison.

George Denison.

D'Arcy Boulton.

Nineteen sergeants, four corporals and two hundred and four rank and file.

Of the field-train department, Wm. Dunbar ; of the Provincial Navy, Captain Frs. Gauvreau, Lieutenant Green, Midshipmen John Ridout, Louis Beaupre, Clerk, James Langdon, one boatswain, fifteen naval artificers ; of His Majesty's regular troops, Lieutenant DeKoven and one sergeant-major ; and of the Royal Artillery, one bombardier and three gunners shall be surrendered prisoners of war and accounted for in the exchange of prisoners between the United States and Great Britain.

G. E. Mitchell, Lieut. Col.,  
3d Art., U. S.

Samuel S. Connor, Major and A. D. C. to Maj.-Gen. Dearborn.

William King, Major,  
15th U. S. Infantry.

Jesse D. Elliott, Lieut.,  
U. S. Navy.

W. Chewett, Lieut.-Col. Comd'g.  
3d Regt. York Militia.

W. Allan, Major 3d Regt.  
York Militia.

F. Gauvreau, Lieut. M. Dept.  
(Canadian Archives, Q. 121, p. 219.)

#### **From Major-General Dearborn to the Secretary of War.**

HEADQUARTERS, YORK, CAPITAL OF UPPER CANADA,  
April 27th, 1813, 8 o'clock, P. M.

SIR,—We are in full possession of this place, after a sharp conflict in which we lost some brave officers and soldiers.

General Sheaffe commanded the British troops, militia and Indians, in person. We shall be prepared to sail for the next object of the expedition the first favorable wind.

I have to lament the loss of the brave and active Brigadier-General Pike.

(From Niles's Weekly Register, 15th May, 1813, Vol. V., p. 178.)

#### **General Dearborn to the Secretary of War.**

HEADQUARTERS, YORK, UPPER CANADA,  
April 28, 1813.

SIR,—After a detention of some days by adverse winds we arrived here yesterday morning, and at eight o'clock commenced

landing our troops about three miles westward of the two and one and a half from the enemy's works. The wind was high and in an unfavorable direction for our boats, which prevented the troops landing at a cleared field, (the ancient side of the French Fort Toronto.) The unfavorable wind prevented as many of the armed vessels taking such positions as would as effectually cover the landing as they would otherwise have done, but everything that could be done was effected. Our riflemen, under Major Forsyth, first landed under a heavy fire of Indians and other troops. General Sheaffe commanded in person. He had collected his whole force in the woods near where the wind obliged our troops to land, consisting of about 700 regulars and militia and 100 Indians. Major Forsyth was supported as promptly as possible with other troops, but the contest was sharp and severe for near half an hour. The enemy was repulsed by a far less number than their own, and as soon as General Pike landed with 7 or 800 men and the remainder of the troops were pushing for the shore, the enemy retreated to their works, and as soon as the whole of the troops had landed and formed on the clear ground intended for the first landing, they advanced through a thick wood to the open ground near the enemy's works, and after carrying one battery by assault were moving on in columns towards the main works; when the head of the column was within about sixty yards of the enemy a tremendous explosion occurred from a large magazine prepared for the purpose, which discharged such immense quantities of stone as to produce a most unfortunate effect on our troops. I have not yet been able to collect the returns of our killed and wounded, but our loss by the explosion must, I fear, exceed one hundred, and among them I have to lament the loss of that brave and excellent officer, Brigadier-General Pike, who received such a contusion from a large stone as terminated his valuable life within a few hours. His loss will be severely felt. Previous to the explosion the enemy had retired into the town, except a party of regular troops, which did not retire early enough to avoid the shock. It is said that upwards of forty of them were destroyed. General Sheaffe moved off with the regular troops and left directions with the commanding officer of the militia to make the best terms he could. In the meantime all further resistance on the part of the enemy ceased, and the outlines of a capitulation were agreed on. As soon as I was informed of General Pike's being wounded I went on shore. I had been induced to confide the immediate command of the troops in action to General Pike from a conviction that he fully expected it and would be much mortified at being deprived of the honor which he highly appreciated. Every movement was under my view. Our



troops behaved with great firmness and deserve much applause, especially those who were first engaged, under circumstances that would have tried the firmness of veterans. Our loss in the action in the morning and in carrying the first battery was not great, probably about 50 in killed and wounded, among them were a full proportion of officers, and although the enemy had a decided advantage in point of numbers and position at the commencement, their loss was greater than ours, particularly in officers.

It was with the greatest exertion that the small vessels of the fleet could work into the harbor against a gale of wind directly ahead; but as soon as they got into contact with the batteries a tremendous cannonade commenced from 24 and 32 pounders, and was kept up without intermission under a heavy fire from two batteries until the enemy's batteries were carried or blown up by the explosion, which undoubtedly had a powerful effect on the enemy. I am under the greatest obligations to Commodore Chauncey for his able and indefatigable efforts in every possible manner that could give facility and effect to the expedition. He is equally estimable for deliberate, sound judgment, bravery and industry. The Government could not have made a more fortunate selection for the important trust he holds. Unfortunately the enemy's armed ship the *Prince Regent* left this place for Kingston four days before we arrived. A large ship on the stocks and nearly planked up, with a large store of naval stores, were set on fire by the enemy soon after the explosion of the magazine. There are no vessels fit for use in the harbor. A considerable quantity of military stores and provisions remained. We shall not possess the means of transporting the prisoners from the place, and must of course leave them on parole. I hope we shall so far complete the necessary measures at this place in the course of this day as to be able to sail to-morrow for Niagara, by which route I send this by a small vessel, with notice to General Lewis of our approach.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I.)

### Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.

United States Ship *Madison*, at Anchor off York,  
8 o'clock P. M., 27th April, 1813.

SIR,—I have the satisfaction to inform you that the American flag is flying upon the fort at York. The town capitulated this afternoon at 4 o'clock. Brigadier-General Pike was killed.

(From the Historical Register of the United States, 1814, Vol. II., p. 215.)

### Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.

United States Ship *Madison*, at Anchor off York  
28th April, 1813.

SIR,—Agreeably to your instructions and arrangements made with Major-General Dearborn, I took on board of the squadron under my command the General and suite and about 1700 troops, and left Sackett's Harbor on the 25th instant for this place. We arrived here yesterday morning and took a position about one mile to the south and westward of the enemy's principal fort, and as near the shore as we could with safety to the vessels. The place fixed upon by the Major-General and myself for landing the troops was the site of the old French fort Toronto.

The debarkation commenced at 8 o'clock a. m. and was completed about 10. The wind blowing heavy from the eastward the boats fell to the leeward of the position fixed upon, and were in consequence exposed to a galling fire from the enemy, who had taken a position in a thick wood near which the first troops landed. However, the cool intrepidity of the officers and men overcame every obstacle. Their attack upon the enemy was so vigorous that he fled in every direction, leaving a great number of his killed and wounded upon the field. As soon as the troops were landed I directed the schooners to take up a position near the forts in order that the attack upon them by the army and navy might be simultaneous. The schooners were obliged to beat up to their position, which they did in a very handsome order, under a very heavy fire from the enemy's batteries, and took up a position within about six hundred yards of their principal fort, and opened a heavy cannonade upon the enemy, which did great execution and very much contributed to their final destruction. The troops as soon as landed were formed under the immediate command of Brigadier-General Pike, who led in a most gallant manner the attack upon the forts, and, having carried two redoubts in their approach to the principal works, the enemy, (having previously laid a train,) blew up his magazine, when its effects upon our troops was dreadful, having killed and wounded a great many, amongst the former the ever to be lamented Brigadier-General Pike, who fell at the head of his column by a contusion received by a heavy stone from the magazine. His death at this time is much to be regretted, as he had the perfect confidence of the Major-General, and his known activity, zeal and experience make his loss a national one.

In consequence of the fall of General Pike the command of the troops devolved for a time upon Colonel Pierce, who soon after took possession of the town. At about 2 P. M. the American flag was

substituted for the British, and at about 4 our troops were in quiet possession of the town. As soon as General Dearborn learnt the situation of General Pike he landed and assumed the command. I have the honor of enclosing a copy of the capitulation, which was entered into and approved by General Dearborn and myself.

The enemy set fire to some of his principal stores, containing large quantities of naval and military stores, as well as a large ship upon the stocks nearly finished. The only vessel found here is the *Duke of Gloucester*, undergoing repairs. The *Prince Regent* left here on the 24th for Kingston. We have not yet had a return made of the naval and military stores, consequently can form no correct idea of the quantity, but have made arrangements to have all taken on board that we can receive—the rest will be destroyed.

I have to regret the death of Midshipmen Thompson and Hatfield and several seamen killed, the exact number I do not know as the returns from the different vessels have not yet been received.

From the judicious arrangements made by General Dearborn I presume that the public stores will be disposed of so that the troops will be ready to re-embark to-morrow and proceed to execute the other objects of the expedition the first fair wind.

I cannot speak in too much praise of the cool intrepidity of the officers and men generally under my command, and I feel myself particularly indebted to the officers commanding vessels for their zeal in seconding all my views.

(From the Historical Register of the United States, Vol. II., pp. 215-7.)

### **Major-General Dearborn to Governor Tompkins.**

YORK, UPPER CANADA, April 28, 1813.

DEAR SIR:—

After having been delayed several days by adverse winds we arrived here yesterday morning at sunrise. We commenced landing our troops at 8 o'clock a. m. under unfavorable circumstances; a very high wind which continued to increase all day prevented our armed vessels from gaining proper positions for covering our landing as effectually as they otherwise would have done, and the same unfavorable wind prevented our boats reaching the shore at the place intended, and compelled our troops to land where the bank was covered with woods in which General Sheaffe had collected his whole force of regulars, militia and Indians, amounting to 750 or 800 total, but our troops with great coolness sustained a heavy fire from the Indians and others from the time they approached within gunshot of the shore until they landed and mounted the banks, when a very sharp contest was kept up for about an hour. In the

meantime other troops were landed and the enemy were compelled to give way and retired through the woods to their works. As soon as the whole of the troops were landed and formed, under the immediate command of General Pike, they marched through a thick wood about half a mile to the open ground, annoyed by the Indians as they moved.

On reaching the open ground they advanced and carried a battery by assault, and were advancing towards the principal works in open column when a tremendous explosion took place of an immense magazine prepared for the purpose, which threw into the air such a quantity of stones as almost covered the buildings and ground for from sixty to eighty rods in all directions, but it had been so contrived as to discharge much the greater portion of stones in the direction our column was advancing. It made a very considerable havoc in our column, and what is to be more especially lamented is the death of Brigadier-General Pike, occasioned by a severe contusion by a large stone. He survived the wound but a few hours. His loss will be severely felt. He was a most excellent officer. General Sheaffe had taken measures for going off with what regulars he had left, previous to the explosion. He had left the town and militia to make the best terms they could. They are in our possession. A large ship of war nearly planked up and all their naval stores were set on fire before our troops had advanced far enough to prevent it. A capitulation was agreed on surrendering the militia as prisoners of war, and the whole of the public property not destroyed.

Commodore Chauncey's armed vessels had an active share in annoying their works. They kept a very heavy cannonade on the batteries until they were taken or blown up. The Commodore is one of the best men in the world and particularly suited for the command that has been conferred on him.

P. S.—The enemy set fire to their magazine too soon. They destroyed many of their own men.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 381-3, New York State Library.)

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**New York Statesman, May 29th, 1813.**

*Letter to Baltimore Whig, May 7.*

General Dearborn now went ashore from the *Madison* and undertook some petty regulations, but I am sorry that some irregularities were committed by part of our regulars and sailors plundering and injuring private property. I believe Forsyth's corps did the principal mischief of this kind, professedly in retaliation of

British outrages at Ogdensburg, but besides the impolicy of the measure a republican army ought to disdain base pillage.

Several hundred of the inhabitants signed their parole as prisoners on the following days. Many entreated us to hold the place and give them protection, promising us aid, deprecating further exposure to the fury and persecution of the royalists, yet our troops were ordered to evacuate the place, and they re-embarked on the evening of May 1st.

Next morning General Dearborn sailed for Niagara, and, strange to say, he left no orders with Colonel Pearce, next in command, or have we heard from or seen him since. Our sufferings have been uncommon since the 30th ult. A severe storm then came on from the N. E., which only abated to-day. The poor soldiers crammed in little schooners had to endure wind and rain night and day, on deck or pent below half suffocated. There are no better troops than those on board the squadron, but owing to the cause just mentioned they and their arms are in a miserable condition, and I think it would be cruelty and madness to debark them on an enemy's shore until some time be allowed to recruit and refit.

(New York Society Library.)

### Address to General Dearborn.

The citizens of the Town of York, reposing entire confidence in the terms of capitulation, cannot fail to be infinitely alarmed at the conflagration of the buildings of the civil government, the sacrilegious entry of the church and the threatened demolition of the private buildings leased to the government as a council office. Under such circumstances the judges and magistrates of the Town of York are indispensably called upon to claim from General Dearborn the full and efficacious effect of his engagement. They do not conceive that such effect can be procured until the functions of the Magistrates and Police Magistrates are restored by a general declaration, as it is understood General Dearborn had promised to the personal solicitation of the judges.

(In handwriting of Hon. Wm. D. Powell.)

(ENDORSED.)

Sergeant Fish is authorized to leave a guard of 2 or 3 men at the house of a citizen if it is wished.

P. PELHAM,

Lieut. 21st Infantry,

May 1st.

Com'g. Guard.

(From MS. in possession of G. M. Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa, Ont.)

**General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, YORK, April 30, . . .

It is not the intention of the General that the occupancy of the town and garrison of York by the forces of the United States would have any undue effect on the necessary functions of the civil magistrates, on the contrary it is the wish of the Commanding General to support the civil authority when properly exercised, and any representations of the civil magistrates of improper and irregular conduct on the part of the soldiery will be met by immediate and strict scrutiny.

N. PINKNEY, Major,  
and Acting Dep'y Adj.-Gen.

(From MS. in possession of G. M. Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

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**Lieut.-Col. E. W. Ripley to Hon. W. D. Powell.**

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the reception of your note of yesterday and have laid it before the General. In reply he has directed me to assure you that so far as it respects your private property or that of any other citizen it will be respected and you will receive it.

But the baggage of General Sheaffe the General considers in a different light. He thinks the General (Sheaffe) has not acted honourably in relation to the capitulation, and of course his baggage will be detained on public account for future disposition.

It affords me sincere regret that the troops are guilty of plundering. Everything in our power will be done to restrain it and a general search will be made for private property, and what can be found will immediately be restored. I hope the delay in answering your polite note will not be attributed to an indisposition to afford protection. It was in consequence of other duties which claimed a paramount attention.

The General has authorized me to send a small detachment from my own regiment (the 21st) to afford protection to the property of inhabitants, and I am confident they will give it faithfully.

With respectful consideration, I have, &c.,

E. W. RIPLEY, Lieut.-Col.,  
Com'g. 21 Inf.

Garrison, York, Thursday morning.

(From MS. in possession of G. M. Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

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**Hon. Wm. D. Powell to Brigadier-General Vincent, by Captain Powell.**

Sir R. H. Sheaffe at the moment of his retreat gave directions to Lieut.-Col. Chewett and Major Allan of the York militia to treat with the enemy for terms for this post. The arrangement was not concluded until more than 48 hours after, which may account for no communication to you from this post, as we remained at their discretion here two days.

I was assured upon the ratification of the capitulation that an express would immediately proceed to you for directions as to the future care and subsistence of the regular force, wounded and others, left amongst us. It was not until from my son's anxiety to know our fate that I learned how little concerning us was known at Niagara. At the strong and urgent representation of the inhabitants Gen. Dearborn issued a military order to his troops intimating that his possession of the post was not to be considered as interfering with due administration of the laws, and this evidently produced a good effect on the turbulent minds of some wretches of our own population, whose thirst for plunder was more alarming to the inhabitants than the presence of the enemy.

The temporary absence of the President from the seat of government makes no alteration in the civil administration of the Province. Whilst in the Province his name sanctions all acts of the militia in such cases provided for by 15 Sec. of Stat. 52, Geo. 3. At all events the simple idea of discipline should satisfy: that the soldier must obey and look to future satisfaction if his service is irregularly exacted. In moments like the present the situation of the Province may not admit of technical precision in reading a statute. The first and paramount law is self-defence, and if the means employed, however irregular, are necessarily and not wantonly resorted to, the wisdom and justice of the Legislature has ever protected the public servant whose error has been zeal for the service. The best comment on this position is the Statute 19, Geo. 2d, Ch. 39, which you may borrow from Mr. Dickson.

The ready access of the enemy to every part of our coast from their actual superiority on the lake must render every private communication uncertain, but the natural anxiety which all must feel to hear from their friends will doubtless multiply the accidental opportunities to communicate, and I doubt not but it may be done daily by private hands.

The entire abandonment of the civil government, which in its administration requires three Executive Councillors to be present with the President, induces the Chief Justice to accompany me to Kingston, where Mr. McGill is actually. You may suppose that



such a journey at this season is not undertaken by men of our age and character without an object. We expect to return immediately if we find the President there.

(From MS. in possession of G. M. Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

### **An Account of the Capture of York.**

The town and garrison of York in Upper Canada are situated on a bay separated from Lake Ontario by a spit of land which extends about seven miles from Gibraltar Point to the Highlands east of the town. The bay is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles deep and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles wide. The village is at the lower or east end of the bay and is commanded by a blockhouse close to the water. The straggling houses extend along the bay to near a mile from the blockhouse. West of the town is an open space between it and the garrison, which is separated from the Government House by a deep ravine almost surrounding it in table ground of about 12 acres. From the Government House along the lake there is an open space nearly to the old fort which formerly commanded the anchorage without the bay of the harbour. The ship yard and naval store house were about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile from the eastern blockhouse and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile from Government House. The bay just below the blockhouse was separated from a long, wide and deep marsh by a narrow isthmus, which connected the town with the said bank called the point. From the garrison there ran parallel to the lake at the distance of about half to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile from the water a road to the beach or Humber Bay, which came out about a mile below the old fort. A branch parted from that road and descended to the bay about a mile from the garrison, close to the old fort. The ground on each side this road was thick wood. In the garrison was a blockhouse serving as barracks, without a gun, but on the bank near to it were two six-pounders behind a sod work. At the corner of the Government House was a battery of two 12-pounders. About 400 yards from the Government House was a small half-moon work, thrown up without a gun, and about the same distance further on an 18-pounder battery which commanded the anchorage and landing.

In the evening of the 26th April the telegraph announced 14 sail standing in shore about 8 miles below the town.

There were then in the place two companies of the King's on their way to Fort George, 2 weak companies of the Newfoundland Regt., 40 of the Glengarry Regt., and about 45 Indians, in all 365, to them may be added in numbers 250 militia and 40 art[ificers]. 290.

In the evening there was much discussion as to the probable



point of attack. The major opinion was that it would be above and below the town. In the morning it was ascertained that the squadron was approaching the garrison. The demonstration was that the landing would be attempted near the old fort. The Indians under Major Givins were directed to that point. The grenadiers of the King's were ordered to file along the wood to the place of landing. The Glengarry company was ordered to support the Indians. The battalion company of the King's, the Newfoundland and part of the militia under the command of Major Heathcote to support the grenadiers in the wood. Part of the militia which were nearest at hand were directed to cover the wood from being flanked, under the lead of Major-General Shaw. During the night Capt. Cameron's company of militia remained in town, and Col. Chewett was ordered to rendezvous the sedentary militia in the market place, there to wait for orders. The grenadiers of the King's did their utmost, and were supported by Major Heathcote's division, but Capt. McNeil being killed and a large proportion of the company dropped by the riflemen, who had got into the wood, it broke and dispersed. The Indians not being supported, after losing 8 of their number fled. Major Heathcote withdrew with his troops. When this was perceived by Sir R[oger] S[heaffe] he twice rallied them and was fairly left with none but his A. D. C., Capt. Loring, between the enemy and our retreating force. During this period Sir R. Sheaffe, with his usual coolness, gave his orders. As it was not impossible that the squadron might have landed a party below the town, he directed Col. Chewett to leave 40 men at that end to observe. It is said that the orders to the militia in town were deferred too long, but it is obvious that Mr. McLean, who marched down with Col. Chewett, was killed at the landing. Col. Chewett received his orders from Sir R. S[heaffe] in person to enter the wood and put himself and militia under command of Col. Heathcote, and was particularly directed to leave an officer and 20 men at the opening by which he entered the wood to observe. The retreating troops rendezvoused pretty generally at the 18 pr. battery, but an explosion of the powder magazine attached to the battery occasioned some loss, great confusion and considerable dispersion of the militia. From this battery the troops retreated towards the Government House, the enemy having formed on the bank 2000 strong. It is said that the retreat was disorderly; it may be believed as to the militia but the regular force was kept together. No halt was made at the half-moon, but General S. gave directions at a proper time to explode the magazine. The enemy was then so near that he lost his General and 200 men. This shock disordered the column so much that if a charge could have been made with our small remain-

ing force it might have had effect. But it must be recollected that the town was still at the mercy of the shipping. The check from the explosion put such a distance between us and the enemy that Sir R. S[heaffe] halted at the ravine, about half-way from the garrison to the east blockhouse, took counsel with his own mind and consulted the principal officers about him. Major Heathcote alone spoke, and was of opinion to have another fight.

As the General almost immediately declared his intention to retreat to Kingston it may be presumed that he saw no opening to save the regulars but in retreat. He burned the ship and naval storehouse and brought off all the regular force to Kingston.

(From MS. in handwriting of Hon. Wm. D. Powell in possession of G. M. Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

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**At a Meeting of the Magistrates Resident in the Town of York,  
Attended by the Judges, the Sheriff and the Rev. Dr.  
Strachan.**

The actual situation of the town and district was taken into consideration.

The enemy's fleet and army lying in the harbour, all our military defences at the post destroyed, the inhabitants disarmed and on parole, it is obvious that measures, as much of energy as our circumstances admit, should be instantly adopted to preserve order and prevent anarchy, to support and encourage the loyal, to suppress the disloyal and to inspire the wavering. It is therefore unanimously declared that by the irruption of the enemy and temporary possession of this post no change was taken in the relation of the subject to His Majesty's Government and laws, except as to such who were parties to the capitulation as prisoners of war and are under parole of honour not to bear arms until exchanged.

That it is equally now, as before this invasion, high treason to aid, assist, counsel or comfort the enemy.

That all felons and evil-doers are equally amenable to the laws as before, and that the powers of the magistrates and ministers of the law are unimpaired, and continued to be so during the actual possession of the enemy, as the Commander of their Forces declared by a general military order to his troops. That private property having remained unchanged, not only by the construction of the law but by the express terms of the capitulation, the enemy himself disclaims the right assumed by some individuals to transfer it from the true owner.

That it is the duty of every good citizen to declare to the magistrate all instances of such unjust possession as may come to their knowledge, and of the magistrates to enforce restitution.

That all persons desirous to testify their abhorrence of anarchy, which must prevail if principles adverse to the above declaration gain ground, are called upon to associate in support of the laws and to afford their aid to the civil magistrates and their ministers.

That the High Sheriff do publish and enforce this declaration.

N. B.—The American officers, as well the General's staff as others, had pretended to give away the property of the Crown and individuals to certain persons, sometimes merely gratuitously, at others under pretext of paying or compensating services rendered during their possession of the town.

(From MS. in the handwriting of Hon. Wm. D. Powell, in possession of G. M. Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

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**Major William Allan to Major-General Sheaffe.**

YORK, 2d May, 1813.

SIR,—In obedience to your orders at the moment of retreating at 3 o'clock P. M. on the 27th ulto., Lieut.-Colonel Chewett and myself, accompanied by the Reverend Dr. Strachan, entered into terms of capitulation with the commander of the enemy's troops. Various difficulties were thrown in the way of its final adjustment from the destruction of the ship and naval stores, supposed to have been commanded by you subsequent to your orders to capitulate. They were not ratified by General Dearborn until next morning, during which period the inhabitants were exposed to every sort of insult and depredation. But as matters were very little mended by the ratification it is presumed that these depredations happened more from the insubordination of the men than the wishes of the officers. After carrying off all the public stores and burning all the public buildings, the troops are now re-embarking, but are all ignorant of their destination. Few houses in the town escaped a minute search by two or three parties, under the pretext of looking for public property. Many have been pillaged and some have had everything taken, [and were] threatened with the loss of their lives. We have now nearly forty wounded to take care of, some very badly, and several amputations must take place. We have no medical assistance for them, the surgeons having retreated with the army.

**Extract from a Letter from Lieut. Fraser, A. D. C. to Brigadier-General Pike, Published in the Aurora, of Philadelphia, May, 1813.**

We embarked the 22d and 23d of April last; the weather being stormy we returned into port and sailed again on the 25th, and arrived at York in Upper Canada the 27th, about 7 o'clock a. m., and immediately prepared to land opposite the old site of Fort Toronto. A body of British grenadiers were paraded on the shore, and the Glengarry Fencibles, a corps which has been disciplined with great pains for six months past, appeared at another point. Bodies of Indians were perceived in large groups in different directions, and a considerable number in some woods and underwoods on our leeward flank.

About the site of the old French fort of Toronto, of which scarcely any vestiges at present remain, we could discern a few horsemen, who we perceived afterwards moving into the town, where strong field works had been thrown up to oppose our landing.

As soon as the horsemen had entered the town we saw the Indians moving in gangs along the skirts of the woods under the direction of British officers, taking post at stations pointed out to them, apparently calculated with some skill as to the point at which the water and the weather must compel us to land.

After these Indians, acting as *tirailleurs*, were thus disposed we perceived very distinctly the regulars moving out of their works in open columns of platoons and marching along the bank in that order. When they reached the plain of the old fort Toronto they were wheeled off by heads of platoons into the woods and soon appeared in the same order below the plain, just at the position at which our troops were under the necessity of landing.

Major Forsyth and his excellent and gallant rifle corps, who had been placed in two large batteaux, pulled undauntedly towards the cleared ground where he had been ordered to land, but he was forced by the wind a considerable distance below his destined point.

The fire of musketry and rifles here commenced from the shore, the enemy being within a few feet of the water and in a considerable degree masked by the wood and copse.

Here Major Forsyth ordered his men to rest for a few moments on their oars and soon opened a galling fire upon the enemy. In the moment when Forsyth's corps were lying upon their oars and priming, Gen. Pike was standing on the deck, and, impatient at the apparent pause of an instant and seeing that the rifle corps had been driven by the wind beyond the point at which they were to

have disembarked, exclaimed: "By—— I can't stay here any longer," and addressing himself to his staff: "Come, jump into the boat," which we immediately did, the Commodore having reserved a boat specially for him and his suite. The little coxswain was immediately ordered to steer for the middle of the fray, and the balls whistled gloriously around, probably their number was owing to seeing so many officers in one boat, but we laughed at their clumsy efforts as we pressed forward with well pulled oars.

The infantry had, according to orders, embarked at the same time and formed platoons as soon as they reached the shore. The General took command of the first platoon he reached and formed it below, and ordered the whole to prepare for a charge as soon as we reached the top of the bank. We proceeded in high spirits and mounted the bank under a volley of musketry and rifle shot, but we had not time to force our platoon completely when the British grenadiers showed us their backs. At the very moment of their turning tail the sound of Forsyth's bugles was heard with peculiar delight, as it was the indication of his success; the effect of the bugle upon the nerves of the British Indians was electric, for they no sooner heard it than they gave a diabolical yell and fled in all directions.

The Glengarry corps skirmished with Forsyth's while the infantry were landing, and Brigade-Major Hunter formed the troops for action as they landed and reached the plain.

The volunteer corps, commanded by Colonel Maclure, flanked the reserve, and the light artillery, commanded by Major Eustis, acting as infantry, covered the left.

It is proper to state in this place the masterly co-operation of Com. Chauncey and the naval squadron under his command. He sent his schooners mounting heavy metal to cover the landing, and kept up so well directed and incessant a fire of grape on the woods as to effectually cover our right flank and afforded us great facility in forming our platoons, besides producing the utmost consternation among the Indians. A shot from one of the schooners killed a horse under the aid of the British General, but owing to the shallowness of the water neither the ship nor the brig could be brought in to participate in the action, but the Commodore was through the whole of the action in his boat, encouraging and giving orders to the different schooners. The navy lost two gallant midshipmen and about 20 seamen were killed and wounded in the service of landing.

The troops ordered to land by General Pike when he went on shore were the three companies of Captain Hoppock, (who was mortally wounded in the boat,) Capt. Scott and Capt. Young of the

15th Regiment United States Infantry, all under the command of Major King, (the same who gallantly distinguished himself at Queeuston,) their orders were to reinforce Major Forsyth and effect a landing, and they were forbidden to load or use powder; the riflemen of Forsyth, as the enemy came up, opened a heavy and effective fire upon the enemy, and the three companies landed in the most complete style: the enemy gave way before our troops could come to the bayonet's point, and were pursued up the bank by our troops. At the top of the bank a fresh body of British grenadiers, (said to be the 8th or King's grenadiers,) made a formidable charge on this column of ours and compelled us for an instant to retire, but our troops instantly rallied and returned to the charge, and with the most complete success, not a man of the grenadiers escaped our fire or charge, and our troops, just reinforced by the remainder of the 15th, remained undisputed masters of the bank. This reinforcement brought the colors of the 15th, which accompanied the platoon of Capt. Steele. The enemy presenting a fresh front the troops were instantly formed for the charge by Major King, who gave them Yankee Doodle, but the enemy did not like our music nor our pikes any better than our rifles—they gave way and fled in the utmost disorder.

As soon as our forces were all landed and collected we were formed into platoons and marched in that order towards the enemy's works, flanked by the rifle corps.

Our march was by the lake road in sections, but the route was so much intersected by streams and rivulets, the bridges over which had been destroyed by the enemy as they retreated, that we were considerably retarded in our progress; we collected logs and by severe efforts at length contrived to pass over one field piece and a howitzer, which were placed at the head of our column in charge of Captain Fanning of the 3d Artillery, and thus we proceeded through a spacious wood, as we emerged from which we were saluted by a battery of 24-pounders, but excepting some pikes broken and some bayonets bent these guns gave us no annoyance.

The General then ordered one of his aids (Fraser) and a sergeant to proceed to the right of the battery in order to discover how many men were in the works. We did so and reported to him the number and that they were spiking their own guns towards the shipping.

The General immediately ordered Captain Walworth of the 16th, with his company of grenadiers, to make the assault. Walworth gallantly ordered his men to trail arms and advance at the accelerated pace, but at the moment when they were ordered to

recover and charge the enemy broke in the utmost confusion, leaving several men wounded on the ground, which they abandoned.

We then proceeded in admirable order on a gradual ascent, when a fire was opened upon us of round and canister from the quarters of the British Governor. The General here ordered the troops to lie close while the artillery battery under Major Eustis was brought to the front and silenced the enemy's battery. The firing very soon ceased altogether, and we were expecting a flag of surrender at the very moment when a terrible explosion of the British magazine took place. The explosion was stupendous, and at the instant the common supposition was a subterraneous mine. The General had just aided in removing a wounded man with his own hands and set down on a stump with a British sergeant we had taken prisoner, whom the General with Captain Nicholson and myself were examining when the explosion took place. The General, Captain Nicholson and the British sergeant were all mortally wounded, and I was so much bruised in the general crash that it is surprising how I survived; probably I owe my escape to the corpulency of the British sergeant, whose body was thrown upon mine by the concussion.

Brigade-Major Hunter, assisted by Lieutenant-Colonel Mitchell of the 3d Artillery, who acted as a volunteer upon the expedition, formed the troops and we were ready to give or receive a charge in five minutes after the explosion.

The wounds of General Pike were of such a nature as to disable him from all further service, and the command devolved on Colonel Pearce of the 16th Infantry, as the senior officer, who sent a flag demanding an immediate surrender at discretion. They made only one stipulation, which was granted without hesitation, that is, that private property should be respected.

The British General made his escape and a body of regular troops with him, in what direction I have not heard.

When the surgeons were carrying their wounded General and his aids from the field our troops, which had just formed, gave a tremendous huzza. The General turned his head anxiously to enquire what that was for. A surgeon who accompanied him said: "The British Union Jack is coming down, General, the Stars are going up;" he heaved a heavy sigh of ectasy and smiled even amidst the anguish which must have been inseparable from the state of his wounds. He was carried on board the *Pert* schooner, together with his Aid-de-camp Fraser, and from thence on board the Commodore's ship, accompanied by the Commodore, who came to attend him. On board the Commodore's ship his gallant spirit fled.



### The Capture of York.

The following is given as an accurate list of the killed and wounded at York, Upper Canada, April 27.

|                                                                                                                                                                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Killed in battle—1 subaltern, 2 sergeants, 1 corporal, 2 musicians, 8 privates .....                                                                                                  | 14         |
| Killed by explosion—1 captain, 4 sergeants, 4 corporals, 29 privates .....                                                                                                            | 38         |
| <b>Total killed .....</b>                                                                                                                                                             | <b>52</b>  |
| Wounded in battle—2 captains, (one since dead,) 1 subaltern, 3 sergeants, 4 corporals, 22 privates .....                                                                              | 32         |
| Wounded by the explosion—1 Brig-Gen., (since dead,) 1 aid-de-camp, 1 acting aid, 1 volunteer aid, 6 captains, 6 subalterns, 11 sergeants, 9 corporals, 1 musician, 185 privates ..... | 222        |
| <b>Total wounded .....</b>                                                                                                                                                            | <b>254</b> |
| <b>Killed .....</b>                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>52</b>  |
| Of the navy—2 midshipmen and 1 seamen killed, 11 seamen wounded .....                                                                                                                 | 14         |
| <b>Total killed and wounded .....</b>                                                                                                                                                 | <b>320</b> |

(Niles's Register, 12th June, 1813.)

### Colonel Robert Nichol to Colonel Talbot.

NIAGARA, April 29, 1813,  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 3 A. M.

MY DEAR COLONEL :

An express arrived from York about an hour ago with very distressing accounts from York ; in short it appears that York was about to surrender to the enemy, after having had both of its magazines exploded and suffering very great loss in killed and wounded. We do not know what has become of Sir Roger, but suppose he is a prisoner.

In such a juncture it is necessary that every prompt and decisive measure should be adopted to remedy this disaster and to prevent the enemy from profiting in any great degree by this success. You are so much better acquainted with the localities of the country than the General himself that everything in your district is left to your own discretion, but it is hoped that the enemy may yet be prevented from penetrating into the country on the side of the head of the lake. It will be necessary that you keep up a regular communication with Ancaster and regulate your movements



by the accounts you may receive from there, keeping an eye at the same time upon the lake, from whence, however, it is not supposed the enemy can commence operations for some time yet. Arms and ammunition are on the way for you.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

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**Colonel Myers to Brig.-General Procter.**

FORT GEORGE, April 29, 1813, 9 o'clock A. M.

MY DEAR GENERAL :

This morning at one o'clock accounts were received here by Brigadier-General Vincent [from York] with the unpleasant intelligence that that town had been carried by a body of the enemy's troops—about 1,500 troops brought up the lake in thirteen vessels, viz.: two square-rigged and the others smaller; amongst the latter were gun boats. Detailed particulars (from Sir Roger Sheaffe, who was there,) have not yet reached us, but we have ascertained, in addition to York having fallen, that the powder magazines there have been blown up. Whether this has been accidental or been effected by our troops in their retreat we know not.

The grenadiers and another company of the King's were engaged. Two companies of that regiment have reached this post. Two companies of the 41st on their march towards you, the first beyond Ancaster, the other at Henry's, have been recalled. They are extremely much wanted here, and had they pursued their route they would not have reached you in time to act against Harrison.

The enemy on this frontier opposite to us have received a reinforcement within these last few days of nearly 3,000 men. They are well furnished with boats.

You will thus perceive the critical situation in which we are placed on this line. We look with confident hope for the report of your success, and Brigadier-General Vincent, (who is here and by whose directions I am writing to you,) has desired me to impress upon you what essential aid could be rendered to us by the timely arrival here of five hundred Indians should you have secured Harrison's army. It is the Brigadier-General's desire, and in which I most earnestly join, that you forward to us in the King's vessels to Point Abino that number with as great expedition as possible. In the event of your having captured Harrison's army you will see the impossibility under existing circumstances of our taking charge of them here, and therefore Brigadier-General Vincent requests you will make the best arrangements in your power to dispose of them, either by securing them at one or the other of your own posts or

passing them on parole into the United States by way of Cleveland or other route as you may find expedient; the latter line of conduct is perhaps the most preferable on account of the state of your supplies of provisions.

Sincerely wishing you every success, and hoping to send you and receive from you good accounts.

P. S.—Norton had gone towards you as far as the head of the lake, but is called back.

(From Niles's Weekly Register, Baltimore, Md., 15th January, 1814, Vol. V., p. 327. Said to have been taken in General Procter's baggage, 5th October, 1813.)

### **Jasper Parrish to Major-General Lewis.**

CANANDAIGUA, May 2, 1813.

SIR,—I received your letter of the 27th ult. At the time of delivering your letter to the Secretary of War, I had some conversation with him on the subject of the war and employing such of the Indians as have firearms and were offering their services to the United States last fall. He observed that they may be of service to our army, and he would refer the matter to the President.

The President has given no permission to employ the Indians, or even to accept of their services. He has sent a speech to the Six Nations by me in writing, giving his advice to them to retire from the lines during the war, to Alleghany, where they may sleep in safety.

(From Ketchum's History of Buffalo, Vol. II., pp. 427-8.)

### **General Dearborn to the Secretary of War.**

HEADQUARTERS, NIAGARA, May 3, 1813.

SIR,—I arrived at this place last evening with Commodore Chauncey, in his fast sailing schooner the *Lady of the Lake*. We left the fleet with the troops on board in York roads. The wind has been so unfavorable as to render it impracticable to come to this place with any prospect of effecting a landing.

I have had a conference with Generals Lewis, Boyd and Winder, at which Commodore Chauncey was present. I did not find the preparations at this place as complete as could have been expected, but as soon as the wind will permit we shall make a descent. Commodore Chauncey has returned to the fleet and will sail for this place as soon as he shall judge the wind favorable for crossing and landing the troops. In the meantime we shall be preparing to act in concert. General Boyd will take command of the brigade lately commanded by General Pike. We find the weather on this lake at

this season of the year extremely tedious and uncertain, especially when we have to debark troops on the shore of the lake where there are no harbors. Westerly winds are necessary, we have none but easterly. I have no doubt of ultimate success, unless harassed and dispersed by the elements.

I enclose a return of the killed and wounded. You will observe the loss was very small, excepting that produced by the explosion. As nearly as I have been able to ascertain, the loss of the enemy amounted to from ninety to one hundred killed, two hundred wounded and upwards of three hundred prisoners. I have not been able to ascertain precisely the number of the militia put on their parole. I presume it could not be less than five hundred. There was an immense depot of military and naval stores. York was the principal depot for Niagara and Detroit, and notwithstanding the immense amount which was destroyed by them we found more than we could bring off. General Sheaffe's baggage and papers fell into my hands. These papers are a valuable acquisition. I have not had time for a full examination of them. A scalp was found in the executive and legislative chamber, suspended near the Speaker's chair, in company with the mace and other emblems of royalty. I intend sending it to you, with a correct account of the facts relative to the place and situation in which it was found.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I.)

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**Sir Roger H. Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.**

KINGSTON, 5th May, 1813.

(Extract.)

Thinking it highly probable that the enemy would pay an early visit to York, I had remained there long beyond the period I had originally assigned for my departure for Fort George, in order to expedite the preparations which the means in my power enabled me to make for the defence of the place. Your Excellency knows that I had intended to place Colonel Myers, Acting-Quartermaster General, in the command there, at least for a time. I afterwards learned that Colonel Young was in movement towards me with the 8th (or King's) Regiment. I then decided to give him the command to avoid the inconvenience of separating the head of a department from me, and being informed that he was to accompany one of the divisions of his regiment I wrote to him, both by the land and the water route, to come to me without delay. About the 25th of April I received certain intelligence of what had been before rumored, that he was detained at Kingston by a severe illness, and on the 26th I learned that Colonel Myers was to leave Fort George

that day for York. I therefore determined to wait for his arrival, and to leave him in the command until Colonel Young might be in a state to relieve him. It was in the evening of the same day that I heard of the approach of the enemy. I have thought it proper to enter into this explanation as Your Excellency may have expected that I had returned to Fort George before the period at which the attack was made at York. I propose remaining here until I shall have received Your Excellency's commands.

(Enclosed in Sir Roger Sheaffe's letter to Earl Bathurst of 18th May, 1813. Canadian Archives, Q. 317, p. 131.)

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**Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.**

KINGSTON, May 5, 1813.

SIR,—I did myself the honour of writing to Your Excellency on my route from York, to communicate the mortifying intelligence that the enemy had obtained possession of that place on the 27th of April. I shall now give Your Excellency a further detail of that event.

In the evening of the 26th information was received that many vessels had been seen to the eastward. Very early the next morning they were discovered lying to, not far from the harbour. After some time had elapsed they made sail, and to the number of sixteen of various descriptions anchored off the shore some distance to the westward. Boats full of troops were immediately seen assembling near the Commodore's ship, under cover of whose fire and that of other vessels and aided by the wind, they soon effected a landing in spite of a spirited opposition from Major Givins and about forty Indians. A company of Glengarry Light Infantry which had been ordered to support them had by some mistake, (not in the smallest degree imputable to its commander,) been led in another direction and came late into action. The other troops, consisting of two companies of the 8th (or King's) Regiment and about a company of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, with some militia, encountered the enemy in a thick wood. Captain McNeal of the King's Regiment was killed while gallantly leading his company, which suffered severely. The troops at length fell back; they rallied several times but could not maintain the contest against the greatly superior and increasing numbers of the enemy. They retired under cover of our batteries, which were engaged with some of the enemy's vessels that had moved nigher to the harbour. [They kept up a heavy fire on us, some of their guns being thirty-two pounders. To return it we had two twelve-pounders and two old condemned eighteen-pounders without trunnions, and having part of the time

a twelve-pounder of the same description, which we had stocked and mounted. With these defective means the enemy was kept at bay for some time, when\*] by some unfortunate accident the magazine at the western battery blew up and killed and wounded a considerable number of men and crippled the battery. It became too evident that our numbers and means of defence were inadequate to the task of maintaining possession of York against the vast superiority of force brought against it. The troops were withdrawn towards the town, and were finally ordered to retreat on the road to Kingston; the powder magazine was blown up and the new ship and naval stores destroyed. Lieutenant-Colonel Chewett and Major Allan of the militia, residents in the town, were instructed to treat with the American commanders for terms; a statement of those agreed on with Major-General Dearborn and Commodore Chauncey is transmitted to Your Excellency, with returns of the killed, wounded, &c. The accounts of the number of the enemy vary from eighteen hundred and ninety to three thousand. We had about six hundred, including militia and dockyard men. The quality of these troops was of so superior a description and their general disposition so good that under less unfavourable circumstances I should have felt confident of success in spite of the disparity of numbers. As it was the contest, which commenced between six and seven o'clock, was maintained for nearly eight hours.

When we had proceeded some miles from York we met the light infantry of the King's Regiment on its route for Fort George. It retired with us and covered the retreat, which was effected without molestation from the enemy.

[Your Excellency is apprised of the causes which conspired to delay so long my departure for Fort George.

I propose remaining here until I shall receive Your Excellency's commands.\*]

(Canadian Archives, Q. 121, p. 217. Enclosed in Sir George Prevost's despatch to Earl Bathurst of 18th May, 1813, No. 60.)

\*These passages were omitted from this despatch when printed in the *London Gazette*.

**Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.**

KINGSTON, 5th May, 1813.

SIR,—I did myself the honour of writing Your Excellency on my route from York to communicate the mortifying intelligence that the enemy had obtained possession of that place on the 27th of April, and I shall now enter into a fuller detail than I was enabled to do at the date of that letter.

In the evening of the 26th of April I received information that

many vessels had been seen from the high lands to the eastward of York. Soon after daylight the next morning the enemy's vessels were discovered lying to not far from the shore of the peninsula in front of the town. They soon afterwards, sixteen in number of various descriptions, made sail with a fresh breeze from the eastward, led by the ship lately built at Sackett's Harbour, and anchored off the point where the French fort formerly stood. Many boats full of troops were soon discovered assembling near the Commodore's ship, apparently with an intention of effecting a landing on the ground off which he was anchored. Our troops were ordered into the ravine in the rear of the Government garden, and Major Givins and the Indians with him were sent forward thro' the wood to oppose the landing of the enemy.

The company of Glengarry light infantry was directed to support them, and the militia not having arrived at the ravine the grenadiers of the King's and the small portion of the Royal Newfoundland Fencibles belonging to the garrison of York, were moved on, led by Lieutenant-Colonel Heathcote of that corps, commanding the garrison. This movement was directed to be made within the wood, parallel to the lake side, and only so far from it as not to be discovered by the enemy's vessels, several of which were at no great distance from the shore. Captain Eustace's company of the King's Regiment and some militia that were quartered at the east end of the town and had been left there during the night lest the enemy might make some attempt on that flank, were ordered, with the exception of a small party of militia, to join these troops, which was soon effected. While these operations were going on Major-General Shaw, Adjutant-General of Militia, led a portion of the militia on a road at the back of the wood to watch our rear and act according to circumstances. By some mistake he drew away the Glengarry company from the direction assigned to it to accompany this detachment, so that it came late into action instead of being near the Indians at its commencement. The movement of the other troops was retarded by the difficulty of the wood, while the enemy, being aided by the wind, rapidly gained the shore, under cover of a fire from the Commodore's ship and other vessels, and landed in spite of a spirited opposition from Major Givins and his small band of Indians. The enemy were shortly after encountered by our handful of troops. Captain McNeal of the King's Regiment was early killed while gallantly leading on his company, which suffered severely. The troops fell back. I succeeded in rallying them several times, and a detachment of the King's, with some militia whom I had placed near the edge of the wood to protect our left flank, repulsed a column of the enemy which was advancing along

the bank of the lake side, but our troops could not continue the contest against the greatly superior and increasing numbers of the enemy. They retired under cover of the batteries, which were engaged with some of their vessels that had begun to beat up towards the harbour when their troops landed, occasionally firing, and had anchored at a short distance to westward of the line from the barracks to Gibraltar Point. From that situation they kept up a heavy fire on our batteries on the blockhouse and barracks and on the communications between them, some of their guns being thirty-two pounders. To return their fire we had two complete twelve-pounders and two old condemned guns, (without trunnions, eighteen-pounders,) which after being proved had been stocked and mounted under the direction of Lieutenant Ingouville of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, whom I had appointed assistant engineer. A twelve-pounder of the same description was added during the engagement. With these defective means the enemy was kept at bay for some time, when by some unfortunate accident the travelling magazine at the western battery blew up and killed and wounded a considerable number of men, many of them belonging to the grenadier company of the King's Regiment. The battery was crippled, the platform being torn up and one of the eighteen-pounders overturned. The magazine was replaced and the battery restored to some order, but it was evident that our numbers and means of defence were inadequate to the task of maintaining possession of York against the vast superiority of force brought against it, though providentially little mischief had hitherto been done by the long cannonade of the enemy, except to some of the buildings. The troops were withdrawn towards the town, and the grand magazine was at the same time blown up. The enemy was so near to it that he sustained great loss, and was for a time driven back by the explosion. Some of our troops were not beyond the reach of the fragments of the stone, though they escaped with very little injury. Captain Loring, my aide-de-camp, received a severe contusion, and the horse he rode was killed. The troops were halted at the ravine, not far to the westward of the ship-yard. I there consulted with the superior officers, and it being too apparent that a further opposition would but render the result more disastrous, some of the enemy's vessels indicating an intention to move up the harbour in order to co-operate with the land forces, I ordered the troops of the line to retreat on the road to Kingston, which was effected without any annoyance from the enemy. When we had proceeded some miles we met the light company of the King's Regiment on its march to Fort George. I had sent an express the preceding even-

ing to hasten its movements, but it was at too great a distance to be able to join us at York.

The ship on the stocks and the naval stores were destroyed to prevent the enemy getting possession of them. An attempt to set fire to the *Gloucester*, that was fitting out for purposes of transport, proved abortive. She was aground, a mere hulk, her repairs not being half finished. I have been informed that the enemy succeeded in getting her off and putting her into a state to tow her away, a number of shipwrights having arrived from Sackett's Harbour with the expectation of employing them in a similar task on our new ship.

The accounts of the number of the enemy landed vary from eighteen hundred and ninety to three thousand. Our force consisted of a bombardier and twelve gunners of the Royal Artillery, to assist whom men were drawn from the other corps, two companies of the 8th (or King's) Regiment, one of them, (the grenadiers,) being on its way for Fort George, about a company of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and one of the Glengarry Light Infantry, and about three hundred militia and dockyard men. The quality of some of these troops was of so superior a description, and their general disposition so good that under less unfavorable circumstances we might have repulsed the enemy in spite of their numbers, or have made him pay very dearly for success; as it was, according to reports that have reached me, his loss was much greater than ours, a return of which I have the honour of transmitting, except that of the militia, a return of which has not yet been received, but I believe it to have been inconsiderable. Donald McLean, Esquire, Clerk of the House of Assembly, gallantly volunteered his services with a musket, and was killed. Captain Jarvis of the Incorporated Militia, a meritorious officer, who had a share in the successes at Detroit and Kingston, had been sent with a party of militia in three batteaux for the militia clothing which had been left on the road from Kingston. He came to me during the action to report his arrival and soon afterwards he was severely wounded. A few of the Indians, (Missassaugas and Chippewas,) were killed and wounded, among the latter were two chiefs.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 317, p. 150. Enclosed in Sir R. H. Sheaffe's letter to Earl Bathurst of 18th May, 1813.)

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**From the Quebec Mercury, Tuesday, 25th May, 1813.**

Extract of a letter from Kingston, Upper Canada, dated 7th May.

No doubt you have heard ere this of the attack upon York. On the 26th ult. an alarm was given that there were ten sail of the



enemy below York. I was on piquet that night, and early in the morning we discovered 14 sail of the enemy coming up the river. The whole of the regulars in garrison were assembled, which consisted of not more than 300 men. The enemy got up and commenced landing. They landed from 2,500 to 3,000 men, out of which were killed and wounded about 600. We sunk several of their boats and killed numbers on the beach. Captain McNeal of the 8th Regiment fell early in the engagement. We were forced to retreat from the bush to one of the batteries, where we commenced a heavy fire on their shipping. In the meantime the powder magazine which was on the battery unfortunately blew up, whereby we lost about twenty men. We immediately collected the men together and had the bodies removed and commenced again firing on the enemy. We had then been hard at it from seven in the morning until three in the afternoon, when we discovered three columns of the enemy advancing. We then turned one of the guns on them and commenced firing. However, our force was so reduced, and the enemy's grape, canister and round shot came so thick amongst us, both from them and their shipping, that we had to spike the guns and retreat to the lower battery. We then gave them a few more shot and were obliged to retreat. When we got 200 yards from the powder magazine it blew up, being set on fire by ourselves, which must have killed several hundreds of the enemy.

(File in the Library of Parliament, Ottawa.)

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**MS. Carefully Preserved by the Late Colonel William Allan of Moss Park, Toronto, apparently the Original Draft.**

YORK, 8th May, 1813.

MY DEAR SIR,—

Knowing your anxiety for our fate and the interest you have in the safety of this Province, we hasten to give you as accurate an account as we are able of the events which have happened here since the day previous to the attack :

On Monday, 26th April, about five o'clock P. M., an express arrived from Scarborough informing General Sheaffe that the enemies' flotilla, consisting of at least ten sail, was observed at the distance of eight miles, steering apparently for York.

The militia were immediately called to arms, and they assembled with the greatest cheerfulness, as from the number of regular troops accidentally in the garrison it was supposed that we were strong enough to beat any force that could be brought against us in that number of ships. The troops were stationed in different

places during the night to guard every approach to the town. At daylight on the 27th the enemy's ships were seen standing in towards Gibraltar Point, as if they intended to put troops on shore on the neck of land below the town, but soon after, changing their mind, they steered for the mouth of the harbour. The number of vessels now visible amounted to fourteen, and we could see by our glasses that the decks were crowded with troops. About six they began to land above the old French fort, nearly two miles above the garrison. The first division consisted of the rifle corps, which immediately took the woods on gaining the shore. In the meantime I was astonished that the troops and field pieces were not ordered to march much sooner to the place of landing, as it was easy to ascertain it after the flotilla had passed the lighthouse. At length the troops were seen marching towards the shore opposite the enemy's ships, but without artillery, as it was supposed to be impracticable to bring the field pieces through the wood. From the most correct accounts that can be procured, our troops did not proceed to attack the enemy for a quarter of an hour after they had actually reached the ground, during which time they were landing in great numbers. At length the grenadier company of the Eighth, joined by a few militia volunteers, advanced to attack the Americans as they mounted the bank, and behaved with the greatest courage and intrepidity, but unaccustomed to fighting in the woods and conspicuous by their dress, they fell on all sides without even knowing whence the fire proceeded. The riflemen were hid behind trees and logs and never appeared but when they fired, squatting down to load their pieces, and their cloaths being green they could not be distinguished from the bushes and trees. About the same time Major Givins with the Indians were actively employed on the right, but they were not supported, and after losing some of their best men, one chief killed and another wounded, they retreated through the woods. The division of the Newfoundland Regiment and a battalion company of the regulars were also engaged, but not being so far in advance as the grenadier company their loss was very inconsiderable. The place chosen by the enemy for landing was very advantageous for their troops, being full of shrubs and bushes; his riflemen were immediately covered and cut off our people, with little or no danger to themselves. From the frequent halts made by our troops on their way to the scene of action and coming up in small divisions there appeared an indecision and want of energy which was very injurious to the cause. In a very short time the grenadiers and Newfoundland division, with some militia who had joined, were so much galled by the fire of the enemy and had so many killed that they were obliged to retreat upon the

first battery. This was all the fighting we had, and altho' the advantage was not on our side the day, in our opinion, might have been retrieved. The great error committed in the morning was the not attacking the enemy on landing with our whole force. Instead of doing this half our best troops, the Glengarry company and the garrison militia, were sent to deploy in the woods in order perhaps to support the Indians and take the enemy on his flank, but after wandering till they were fatigued they were forced to return by the same paths through which they had marched, and were hardly in time to witness the retreat of the troops that had felt the enemy. It does not appear that we had above one-third of our people engaged, and these placed in a situation the most disadvantageous that could possibly be imagined for such troops. From the moment of retreat the confusion increased. Few of the officers knew what to do, they had no orders and those who thought that they had orders found them so inconsistent as not to know how to proceed. The consequence was that great numbers crowded into the batteries, and no proper arrangements were made for arresting the further progress of the enemy.

When the troops were placed under the cover of the first battery, as conveniently as possible, an accident happened, very disastrous to many and exceedingly discouraging to the state of our defenders. By the carelessness of the man who carried the port-fire a spark fell into the portable magazine belonging to the battery, which, blowing up, spread death and destruction on every side. From twelve to eighteen were killed and many dreadfully wounded. The terrible appearance of the killed and wounded, being all black and scorched, dispirited the troops, even after they had recovered from the consternation produced by the explosion, which was the more to be deplored, as there is reason to suppose that the accident was occasioned by crowding the battery with troops who should have been in another place, and thus incommoding the men employed in working the guns. By the vigour and courage of Col. Hughes (Heathcote?) and Mr. Ingerfield (Ingouville?) the battery was quickly cleared and the guns began again to play upon the enemy. During this time the enemy had landed his cannon, and being more industrious than we contrived to drag two halves (howitzers?) and four sixes along with him as he advanced upon the battery, while we conceived it impracticable in the morning to carry two sixes to the place of debarkation. The militia began now visibly to melt away; there was no person to animate them nor to tell them when they were to make a stand, their officers knew nothing of what was to be done, each was asking of another, inquiring after the General and running after his aides and messengers in order to ascertain what they should

do. In the meantime the General walked backwards and forwards on the road between the garrison and Mr. Haines's, more than half a mile from the troops. It was upwards of an hour and a half after the troops retreated to the first battery before the column of the enemy appeared, and it was the general opinion that then a desperate resistance would be made, but the officers and men, being allowed to remain without orders, they began to retire as soon as the enemy was seen, and the battery was entirely abandoned before it was attacked, on discovering that it was supplied with nothing but round shot. Thus an excellent opportunity of annoying the enemy as he advanced, with grape and cannister, was lost, and a good position for a general engagement given up without resistance. At the next battery, which was very small, few of the troops stopped, but continued their retreat to the Gov't. House. There they halted, expecting to make a stand, but receiving no orders to that effect the retreat was continued to the garrison.

The retreat was ordered to be still continued toward Elmsley House, and when the troops had passed the garrison, the militia bringing up the rear, the powder magazine was blown up, as had been previously concerted, that it might not fall into the hands of the enemy. The explosion of two hundred barrels of gunpowder, with a great quantity of fixed ammunition, was most tremendous, and killed and wounded a great number of the American troops as they were advancing, among others Brig.-General Pyke was so severely wounded that he died next morning.

The American army was so stunned by the explosion and suffered so much as to be thrown into the utmost confusion, and had they been attacked during their consternation they would have been easily defeated, but as it was merely to deprive them of the magazine, and not a stratagem of war, General Sheaffe cannot be blamed for not taking advantage of its effects, which in all probability were unknown to him.

It is, however, certain that if the explosion had been delayed one-quarter of an hour half the enemy's force would have been blown up and almost the whole wounded. As this was done without the knowledge of many of our own officers they, with their men, were likewise exposed to imminent danger.

The troops halted behind a ravine near by Elmsley House, and many of the militia being fatigued and hungry retired to town to get some refreshment. Indeed it was now generally supposed that General Sheaffe had abandoned all idea of further resistance, and that he was preparing to treat with the enemy. Yet it would have been still practicable to have collected the stragglers, and the regulars were eager to revenge their comrades who had fallen in the

morning, but after remaining an hour in this position a council of war was called and before an opinion was given by any of its members the General ordered the regulars to retreat to Kingston.

The command at York was left with Col. Chewett and Major Allan, who were ordered by Sir Roger to make the best terms they could with the enemy.

Major Allan immediately proceeded towards the enemy and met a flag of truce, accompanied by two officers, who were on their way to General Sheaffe. The Major agreed with these gentlemen to meet at Mr. Cruikshank's house, opposite which they were then standing, in a quarter of an hour, to enter into terms of capitulation. When this meeting took place a difficulty arose as to the powers of Col. Chewett and Major Allan to treat, on clearing up of which Major King and Col. Mitchell, who had been appointed by the enemy, declared that they thought they were to treat with officers sent by General Sheaffe, and they were angry and mortified to find that he and the regular troops had retreated.

This difficulty being got over, the conditions of the capitulation came to be considered for the town and militia, and during the time that they were drawing up, an American officer called out Major King and informed him that while we were treating our people were destroying everything that could be of any use to them. Major King came in and informed us that the ship and naval stores had been set on fire after a flag of truce had been accepted and conditions begun to be entered into, asserting that we had deceived them and that he would enter into no capitulation. It was in vain that Col. Chewett and Major Allan declared that if these fires had been kindled it was not by their orders nor according to their wishes, but that it must have been done by persons without authority. At length the following articles were agreed upon, after much altercation. They are almost as bad as none, but situated as matters then were better could not be obtained.

A little before these were signed the enemy advanced in close column, and it was not without difficulty that they were stopped by Major King. When two copies had been signed this gentleman took them both away and promised to return in a few minutes with the ratification, but instead of so doing an officer of a very inferior rank came up to Major Allan and demanded his sword in the name of Col. Pearce, who had succeeded General Pyke in the command.

It was to no purpose that we represented to this officer that the Major had come to treat under the protection of a flag. He told us his orders were peremptory, and when he had received the sword he took the Major prisoner, who was conducted to town with much indignity in the middle of the column.

This conduct was so very opposite to the terms of the capitulation and to the courtesy which had been agreed upon by its framers, that we inferred that no attention would be paid to any part of it, more especially as we had heard no more of the ratification. When the enemy arrived in town the riflemen were appointed to protect it—a corps which bears the worst character in the American army. This was so contrary to the stipulation of securing private property that we expected to have been given up to indiscriminate pillage. The officers of militia and all the privates and inhabitants of town and country that could be found were marched back to the garrison. The officers were liberated on their parole till next morning, and the privates were confined. All the enemy's troops except the guard were marched back to the garrison. Next morning one of the Commissioners appointed to settle the terms of capitulation meeting Major King taxed him roundly for deceiving us in regard to the ratification of the treaty, and with the indignities which had been offered to Major Allan. This gentleman acknowledged that matters had not proceeded according to his desire, but requested that we would go up to the garrison, when he hoped everything would be amicably adjusted. On our arrival we were told that the form of the capitulation did not please General Dearborn, but he had sent Capt. Elliott and Major O'Connor to treat with us.

With these gentlemen we had again to discuss all the articles, and in a particular manner to defend ourselves from the suspicion of burning the naval store and ship after commencing a treaty for the surrender of the post. The most severe remarks were made by them upon General Sheaffe for giving such orders after he had retreated and given the command to another. In the impropriety of the order we could not but acquiesce, since it could have no good effect and could only expose us to the resentment of a victorious enemy. Being exceedingly anxious to get the officers and men released who were waiting in the garrison, we proposed to liberate them upon their parole not to serve until exchanged, but the Commissioners declared that on that point they could say nothing, the General having expressly reserved it for his own decision. As this was the most generally interesting part of the business, one of the persons appointed to treat for the town, who was not a prisoner of war, desired leave to wait on General Dearborn and Commodore Chauncey on board to complete the negotiation at once, that all might know the worst and an end be put to their present anxiety. The officers had been now six hours in the area of the garrison, walking backwards and forwards; the men were all cooped up in the block house and our wounded had been totally neglected and

we had not yet obtained leave to visit or remove them. It was the General alone who could decide upon these matters. Capt. Elliott and Major O'Connor willingly consented to this gentleman going on board. Col. Pearce, the commander of the troops, ordered an officer to attend him, but before a boat could be obtained the General and Commodore came on shore. The Commissioner, being introduced to the General, submitted to his consideration the terms of the capitulation which had been agreed upon by Capt. Elliott and Major O'Connor, and was proceeding to mention the propriety of liberating the officers and men on parole when he was taxed by the General with having given in a false report of the militia officers—told not to trouble him any further as he had business of much more importance to attend to, and in fine treated him with the greatest disrespect. The Commissioner, turning to Commodore Chauncey, told him that this was a new mode of treating people clothed in a public character; that he had had the honor of transacting business with greater men without meeting with any indignity, but that it was easy to see through these miserable subterfuges for delaying the capitulation that we had been grossly deceived already, that perhaps the General, after allowing his troops to pillage the town, might be induced to ratify it that he might have it in his power on his return home to say that he had respected private property, but he declared that we should not be so duped and insulted, for if the conditions were not complied with immediately there should be no capitulation, we would not accept of it, and they might do their worst for they should not have it in their power to say that they had respected our property after it had been robbed. It is but justice to Major King, Capt. Elliott and one or two other gentlemen who were with Commodore Chauncey while our Commissioner made this declaration, to say that they told him the conditions would be acted upon, but that the General was irritated from some information which he had just received from British traitors. The Commissioner told Major King that he was bound in honor to see the articles of the capitulation religiously complied with, to which that gentleman assented, and altho' he was more difficult than Col. Mitchell in settling the articles in the first instance, yet after he had signed them he was anxious to see them strictly complied with, and seemed more dissatisfied at every infringement than the persons aggrieved. Commodore Chauncey behaved in a gentlemanly manner throughout. After this conversation the Commissioner returned to the barracks to inform the officers that nothing was to be expected, that difficulties were multiplied and that General Dearborn, instead of acting up to the articles agreed upon, had insulted their negotiation.



These things were scarcely communicated to the gentlemen when General Dearborn made his appearance in the garrison, and going into the apartment where his deputation sat, Col. Chewett and Major Allan, accompanied by the insulted Commissioner, entered and finding the General in better humor the articles were again read and ratified; in a few minutes the officers and men were paroled and liberty given to remove the sick and wounded. The officers were immediately set at liberty, and before sunset all the prisoners had left the garrison on their parole.

#### CAPITULATION AS RATIFIED BY GENERAL DEARBORN.

On the twenty-ninth the sick and wounded were removed from the garrison to a house in town with much difficulty, both on account of the badness of the weather and the scarcity of carriages, most of them being employed by the enemy in carrying government stores to the water side. After getting them to town many difficulties occurred about obtaining people to wait upon them, procuring medical assistance, and indeed here it would be injustice not to praise the exertions of Dr. Aspinwall, who went after the surgeons who had retreated with General Sheaffe more than four miles to get back his instruments which they had inadvertently carried off, and he was indefatigable till the 1st, when, being a native American, tho' settled in York, he accepted of a situation on board one of their ships. Dr. Baldwin was then left alone, but to his eternal praise he spent all his time, from morning to night, among the wounded, in which arduous duty he was assisted by Mr. Cathray, an apothecary, who has also been very attentive.

We were alarmed on the morning of the 30th at beholding the buildings of the Civil Government in flames, expressly contrary to the articles of capitulation. And the sacrilegious robbing of the church, with many private depredations which had been committed, led us to suppose that the articles of the capitulation were a dead letter, but that nothing might be left untried a deputation, consisting of the Judges of the King's Bench and some of the magistrates, waited on the American General and presented him with a firm note, claiming our right to the due fulfilment of the agreement and stating the gross violations which had taken place. The General was much embarrassed; he promised everything we desired and testified his regret at what had happened. Finding some of our own people troublesome and acting as if there was no law, we asked a general order from the commander of the American forces stating that he did not interfere with the civil authority, and in consequence of this application the following order was issued and sent to the Chief Justice.



On Monday, 5th May, the following declaration was issued by the sheriff, at the instance of the magistrates with the advice of the judges, as a great number of traitorous people had come from the country and pillaged nearly as much from the King's stores and from private individuals as the enemy. On the first of May several representations of pillage and insult were made to General Dearborn, who seemed to be very much hurt at their frequent occurrence, declaring that he had issued the strictest orders to the contrary, but it was evident that the great degree of insubordination that prevailed among his troops rendered such orders of no effect. On this evening they all embarked, and on the 2nd none of them were to be seen in town except a few stragglers, who were picked up by a guard which came on shore for them in the evening. After this no person came on shore, altho' they were detained in the harbour by contrary [winds] till the morning of the 9th, when they sailed.

After the final departure of the enemy and we had time to reflect, we must acknowledge that they behaved much better than we expected, and if it had not been for the misconduct of the troops in pillaging at Ogdensburg many of them told us that there would have been little or no depredations committed here. Having found more provisions than they could well carry away, General Dearborn ordered some flour and pork to be given to the destitute, and particularly to the soldiers' wives, whose husbands had either retreated or were wounded. And many procured provisions from him under false pretences. Finding applications increasing he requested Dr. Strachan to take the flour and — he could spare into his custody and give it out to the poor as it was wanted. The same offer had been previously made to the Honble. Justice Powell, who proposed to purchase it on account of the Patriotic Society, but the General refused any remuneration. Dr. Strachan, considering himself the agent for the poor, accepted of it, but benefited very little, for before he could get teams to remove it nearly all the fifty barrels were carried off by some of the disaffected inhabitants.

This country is now in a very critical situation, but not worse than was anticipated last fall. We foresaw that the system adopted by our chiefs would end in defeat and dishonour. A defensive warfare when there is an extensive border never was and never can be successful. History does not present a single example and for obvious reasons; the invader has his choice of the place of attack and the defender, uncertain, scatters his force and before they can be re-united he is defeated. Without a new commander and more troops this Province must soon be overpowered; the whole force of the enemy is directed towards it, and unless the most strenuous exertions are made he will be successful. Now these exertions can-

not be made by General Sheaffe, for he has lost entirely the confidence of the regulars and militia and his very name is odious to all ranks of people. Indeed, considering the miserable defence made here, it cannot be wondered at, for altho' we have the highest respect for his private character we must condemn his conduct on the 27th April in the most unqualified terms. I do not know, as I was not privy to his arrangements if he had any, or the orders issued, whether I could prove that all the errors of that day originated with him, but we can safely assert that measures were pursued ill calculated to meet and defeat the enemy, for altho' certain information was obtained that they were approaching no preparations were made effectually to resist their landing on the shore. That after retreating from the place of landing no exertions were made to make a stand at the first battery; the officers were without orders, there was no grape or cannister shot for the guns, and it was abandoned precipitately before the enemy had reached it. That the General kept too far from his troops after retreating from the woods, never cheered or animated them, nor showed by his personal conduct that he was hearty in the cause. That after calling a council of war he waited to hear no opinion, but decided for himself to retreat to Kingston. That he abandoned his two field pieces, which he might have easily carried with him, for no enemy pursued. That he abandoned the sick and wounded, taking the two surgeons with him and leaving them without any medicine or medical assistance, and that after he had left the command with Lieut.-Col. Chewett and Major Allan, and ordered them to enter into a capitulation there is reason to suppose that the ship and naval stores were set on fire by his secret orders, which not only dishonoured those on whom the command devolved but incensed the enemy to such a degree as to expose the town to indiscriminate pillage and conflagration. In fine no serious opposition was made to the enemy after he landed, and the retreat through the country has been the most disorderly and precipitate that ever was witnessed, altho' no enemy was pursuing. The people are indignant rather than dispirited, and while they feel the disgrace of their defeat they console themselves with the conviction that was owing entirely to their commander.

They are anxious to be exchanged that they may have an opportunity of retrieving their honor under a leader who knows how to conduct them.

It is not, however, to be concealed that the true cause of our defeat must be attributed to the loss of the command of the lakes, for this Province without a superiority on the water cannot be preserved. But we shall not at present trouble you with our

remarks on the ruinous system of forbearance which has been uniformly pursued since the commencement of the war. Its effects were anticipated last summer. The pernicious consequences of a policy so destitute of wisdom will not soon be forgotten, and if the Province be lost they to whom its protection has been consigned will not find it an easy matter to defend their conduct. They were sent to defend, not to lose, the Canadas. They might be required not unnecessarily to irritate the Americans, but surely they can never be justified for not anticipating the attacks that the enemy were preparing for our destruction. If it should appear that every measure wearing the appearance of active hostility has not only been discouraged but actually been forbidden, that infinitely more pains have been taken to compel the inhabitants of this Province to be quiet till the enemy had prepared everything for their subjugation than would have been necessary to conquer them if it shall appear that vigorous measures have been uniformly rejected and apologies made to the enemy for beating him, surely a day of reckoning must arrive. If it should further appear that the most respectable representations were made early last autumn, that this Province was not tenable except by securing the command of the lakes, that Sackett's Harbour might have been taken with great ease during the winter months, how shall the loss of this fair Province be justified to His Majesty? The people of Upper Canada have wept at the infatuation which dictated the measures pursued since the commencement of the war. They foresaw their issue and they are now reaping the reward. In the capture of York behold the first fruits of that imbecility which prevented a vigorous attack upon Sackett's Harbour, an attack which must have been made with success and which deserved the most determined and vigorous exertions, as the success would have secured this Province during the whole war.

W. CHEWETT, Lt.-Col. Com'dg 3rd Regt.,  
York Militia.  
W. ALLAN, Major, 3rd Regt., York Militia.  
D. CAMERON, Capt., 3rd Regt., Y. M.  
SAM'L SMITH.

JOHN STRACHAN, D. D.  
ALEXANDER WOODS, J. P.  
W. W. BALDWIN.

I am told that General Shaw says that General Sheaffe talked of retreating with his staff early in the day without the troops, leaving him in the command. That General Shaw answered that

he had no command, and why not retreat with the troops, a thing very easy to be done.

Why was not the Royal Standard carried off?

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### **Narrative of the Capture of York.**

SIR,—On Monday, 16th April, about 6 o'clock p. m., we received intelligence that the enemy's squadron were in sight from the Highlands, standing in shore about 10 miles east of York. The signal guns were fired and the Commanding General, Sir R. H. Sheaffe, appeared to have given the requisite instructions to the officers under his command, as at 8 o'clock he was found at a table smoking his cigar and conversing on indifferent topics with his Adjt.-Genl. of Militia and Surgeon of Marine.

The morning dawn was somewhat hazy and about 5 o'clock a report from the telegraph stated that a fleet of 5 vessels was to be seen. About half-past 5 a corvette of 28 and a brig of 22, with 13 sail of schooners and sloops, carrying guns and troops, passed the telegraph, came along shore and after assembling opposite the town stood round the point and wore to anchor in a position indicating an intended landing near to the old French fort. At this time we had two companies of the 8th, about 180 men, two weak companies of the Newfoundland, 40 men of Glengarry, a company of artificers and ex-military men, and about 300 militia—in all 600 men. Some difference of opinion existed of opposing or admitting the landing. It was opposed, but effected under cover of the shipping with little loss to the invading force and very great to the grenadiers of the King's, whose gallant Captain, McNeil, was killed at the first landing, with about 30 of his men. They were embarrassed by an order to retreat to the woods, where the American rifle corps, now landed, had a great advantage of them and fairly drove them in. As they retreated they were joined by militia and suffered considerably from an accidental explosion of a cartridge box at one of the 18-lb. batteries. Being pressed by the enemy the troops retreated through the garrison, and when the American column reached Glegg's battery there was a tremendous explosion by the blowing up of the magazine, which destroyed about sixty men of the enemy, and among them their General Pike.

Had this moment of confusion been turned to advantage a charge by our rallied force would have routed the enemy, divided and panic-struck by the dreadful catastrophe they witnessed without knowing the precise cause. Such, however, was not our fate. Gen. Sir R. H. S[heaffe] took a stand at the ravine between Elmsley

House and the bay, where after a short consultation he decided to abandon the town and retreat to Kingston with the regular troops and his staff. Having adopted this resolution he authorized Lieut.-Col. Chewett and Major Allan of the York militia to treat with the enemy, and instantly proceeded on his march. The terms proposed were liberal and satisfactory, but just as they were signed the ambition of Naval Lt. McKenzie became obvious and the arrangement was deferred for confirmation by the General Dearborn. A suspicion that the order to burn the ship and store was given subsequent to the direction to treat, had nearly cost the inhabitants all their property. It required time and all the resolution of the negotiators, aided by the active and vigorous mind of the Rev'd Dr. Strachan, to obtain a ratification which was short of the original minute, and was at last conceded to the spirited representation of Colonel Mitchell and Major King, who had settled the original articles. During the interval from the retreat of the troops to this ratification the inhabitants were exposed to every species of insult and plunder, chiefly by our own people. Upon a strong representation from the Judges, the criminals having poured forth from the gaol, General Dearborn declared that it had not been his intention that the functions of the civil magistrates should cease, that he was ignorant of the gaol being opened, and that buildings, public as well as private, should be respected.

The Parliament Houses being burned the next morning, the Judges and Magistrates waited upon Genl. Dearborn with a strong reclamation of the full benefit of the capitulation, and to enforce it by a general order to his army to respect the public ministers of the law. This was also promised, and to a certain extent performed, and the magistrates immediately swore in the principal housekeepers as constables. All their officers disowned the plunder of private property, which they could not prevent. (Two exceptions to this should be named for the sake of others.) An officer, lodged in Mr. Crookshank's house plundered his cellars. He is known, and it has been said was in arrest. Another plundered a valuable silver equipage, which he bore about with him in a handkerchief publicly. He is known to Capt. Chauncey, who was present when he vouched that it was in compensation for his loss at Ogdensburg. A wretch, a British half-pay officer, who had escaped from the fort where he was confined on indictment for a capital felony, was permitted to abuse the military insignia of the U. S., and, as if in its service, direct two armed soldiers who followed him, so

of his being at large. Depredations of public and private property being carried on under pretence of gift from the Genl. or his officers, the magistrates continued doubtful how to

act. Parties still coming on shore from the fleet. A declaration to be made public was drawn up and signed by those present.

The universal reproach of every man and woman, and execration of the conduct of Genl. Sheaffe, was such that for the first days it was idle to interpose a doubt of his cowardice or disaffection. The impeachment and idle boastings of the ignorant were beneath notice, but when the officers of militia soberly and seriously concurred in the general abuse, it was thought reasonable to collect from each what knowledge he had of the transactions of the day.

To begin with Major Allan, who is the most clamorous of the impeachers. It appears that he commanded the militia in the garrison; that he came down early in the morning when it was reported to the General that of 15 sail seen the day before only 5 could be seen from the telegraph; that he, (Major Allan,) was sent to the town on some errand, and on his return found the militia in garrison had vanished, and went to enquire of the General where his men were, but he was referred to Lt.-Col. Heathcote, the 2d in command, but could never join his men until after the retreat. His complaint is that he received no orders. Capt. Cameron commanded the militia at the town blockhouse, and received orders which did not arrive in time for him to join the contest until it was over.

Col. Chewett commanded the unembodied militia of the town and neighborhood, and mustered only in time to take his station in the line, I presume, from the fact that Mr. McLean, who accompanied him, was killed at the landing, having joined the 8th grenadiers.

It appears from facts and reports that as soon as the Genl. was satisfied as to the point of landing he ordered the 8th to oppose it and to cover themselves from the enemy's fire in the edge of the wood; that he sent the Glengarrys to support the Indians, and the militia to prevent the enemy if he effected a landing [from] flanking him; that Adj.-General Shaw, now in the neighborhood, and [who] knew every foot of the ground, was commanded to lead the garrison militia in Major Allan's absence and prevent the enemy harassing our flank.

The position of Col. Heathcote with the Newfoundlanders, the town militia and the corps of artificers, were in the wood to support the 8th, but Col. Chewett informs me that when he marched in with them, about 50 men, after leaving 40 by order at the rendezvous to wait for the orders, the General in person directed him to take his people into the wood and put himself under Col. Heathcote's command, but ordered him to leave an officer with 20 men at the entrance to the wood to observe. Such seem to have been the first directions of Sir R. Sheaffe. In the execution it appears that the two companies

of the 8th took their station, and after some firing on the boats, finding that the advance party of the enemy were riflemen, who as fast as they landed fled into the wood, Capt. McNeil decided upon a charge with bayonets, and was preparing for it when he fell. There seems to have been no order after this incident. Capt. McPherson of the Glengarrys took charge of the grenadiers, but they were broken and retreated. Lieut. Smith, with a few, fell back on the force, and making a tour carried back to the scene of action a few men. The general rendezvous for retreat was at the 18-pounder battery, but they had no guide, and as soon as the enemy's column appeared formed on the bank this battery was deserted. He did not stop at the second battery, which was constructed to flank the other, but retreated beyond the pickets of the garrison enclosure.

It was at this time that the match was put to the magazine, evidently too early, as the explosion took place before the garrison were fairly warned of danger, and before the enemy's column had advanced enough to be materially injured by the explosion. They lost 160 men, with Genl. Pike, by the stones of the magazine. Had our force now made bold and recrossed the ravine before the enemy's panic was over, for they thought the whole ground was undermined, they would not have stood a charge of bayonets but would have all surrendered. This, however, is from subsequent information. The truth is the militia were surprised, the regular force was scattered, and the enemy was supposed to have landed 2,000 men.

The retrograde movement was continued to the ravine in front of Elmsley House, which was just between our people and the enemy. Here the General seemed to contemplate a stand, but after consultation with others and self-deliberation he decided upon retreat to Kingston with his staff and regular force, and directed Col. Chewett and Allan to make the best terms they could. He marched with two brass 6-pounders, which he abandoned at the east end of the town, having first set fire to the ship and naval store-house.

Such was this mortifying day. What and whose were the errors who shall say? Our force was triflingly injured with that of the enemy, tho' the short engagements seemed to have been with nearly equal numbers. Had the Indians been supported it is supposed they would have harassed the first landing party so much that the others would not have advanced.

(From MS. in handwriting of Hon. Wm. D. Powell, in possession of G. M. Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

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**From Journal of a Voyage to Quebec in the Year 1825, with Recollections of Canada during the late American War in the Years 1812-13, by P. Finan, Newry. Printed by Alexander Peacock, Telegraph Office, 1828.**

On the 25th of April the grenadier company of the 8th Regiment arrived in batteaux from Kingston on their way up the country. They were allowed to remain during the 26th to refresh themselves after a long journey, and were to have proceeded on the 27th. During the 26th my father and I were in town, and while returning to the garrison in the evening we were overtaken by Captain McNeil of that company, who was also going there. On our way he informed my father of the various arrangements he had made for the remainder of his journey to the place of his destination, and spoke as confidently of being in Fort George, the next town, on a certain day as if no untoward circumstances could intervene; as if uncertainty and disappointment were not, alas, too constantly the companions of man. When we arrived at the garrison all was bustle and activity; the American fleet had appeared off the harbour, and from its manœuvres it was supposed that York was the place of its destination.

The troops were under arms, and although the greatest activity prevailed in making the necessary dispositions for the defence of the place very little apprehension was entertained for its safety, which was rather surprising, since the whole amount of the regular forces, including the grenadiers of the 8th Regiment, did not exceed 300; the militia, &c., composing a few hundreds more.

Early on the morning of the 27th the enemy's fleet appeared, steering direct for the harbour. The troops were again formed in the barrack square and kept in readiness to march off to oppose the landing of the enemy when it should appear what point they would choose for that purpose. We had a small battery at the garrison, another at the governor's house a short distance farther up the lake shore, and a third about half a mile beyond it.

About seven o'clock the fleet, consisting of a frigate of 24 guns, a brig of 18, and fifteen armed schooners, sailed round Gibraltar Point, steering towards the uppermost battery. The morning was very fine, the lake quite calm, and the fleet gliding slowly upon its surface with a gentle breeze and in regular order, the frigate leading, the others following in a line, and each towing several large boats for the purpose of landing the troops, had an elegant and imposing appearance.

As soon as it became evident where the enemy intended to attempt a landing our forces were ordered off to oppose them.



The grenadier company of the 8th Regiment consisted of 119 as fine men as the British army could produce, commanded by the brave and elegant Captain McNeil. I saw the generous hero at the head of his valiant company, in the prime of life, and, prompt to obey the call of honour, march off, but, ah ! I saw him and the most of his little band return no more : thirty alone escaped the havoc of that day.

All the regulars that could be spared from the batteries advanced beyond the uppermost one, and as the enemy attempted to land opened a spirited fire upon them, but as the latter were so numerous that it was impossible to oppose them all, some landed above where our little force was posted, got into the woods and coming down in their rear cut them off in great numbers. Captain McNeil was the first who fell upon this melancholy occasion ; the Sergeant-Major of the 8th, a remarkably fine looking man, was the next, and the carnage soon became general.

While this part of our force was contending with the enemy in the woods, an unfortunate accident occurred in the battery opposed to the fleet, which proved a death-blow to the little hope that might have been entertained of a successful issue to the proceedings of the day. A gun was aimed at one of the vessels, and the officers, desirous to see if the ball would take effect, ascended the bastion ; in the meantime the artilleryman, waiting for the word of command to fire, held the match behind him, as is usual under such circumstances, and the travelling magazine, a large wooden chest, containing cartridges for the great guns, being open just at his back, he unfortunately put the match into it, and the consequence, as may be supposed, was dreadful indeed. Every man in the battery was blown into the air, and the *dissection* of the greater part of their bodies was inconceivably shocking. The officers were thrown from the bastion by the shock, but escaped with a few bruises ; the cannons were dismounted and consequently the battery was rendered completely useless.

I was standing at the gate of the garrison when the poor soldiers who escaped the explosion with a little life remaining were brought into the hospital, and a more afflicting sight could scarcely be witnessed. Their faces were completely black, resembling those of the blackest Africans, their hair frizzled like theirs and their clothes scorched and emitting an effluvia so strong as to be perceived long before they reached one. One man in particular presented an awful spectacle ; he was brought in a wheelbarrow, and from his appearance I should be induced to suppose that every bone in his body was broken ; he was lying in a powerless heap, shaking about with every motion of the barrow, from which his

legs hung dangling down as if only connected with his body by the skin, while his cries and groans were of the most heartrending description.

Although Spartan valour was evinced by our little party it proved unavailing against the numbers that pressed them upon all sides, and in consequence of the loss of the battery and the reduction that had been made in the number of our troops their ground was no longer tenable; but after nobly and desperately withstanding their enemies for several hours, a retreat towards the garrison became inevitable, although every inch of the ground was obstinately disputed.

The Governor's house with some smaller buildings formed a square at the centre battery, and under it the grand magazine, containing a large quantity of powder, was situated. As there were only two or three guns at this battery, and it but a short distance from the garrison, the troops did not remain in it, but retreated to the latter. When the Americans, commanded by one of their best Generals, Pike, reached this small battery, instead of pressing forward they halted, and the General sat down on one of the guns; a fatal proceeding, for in a few minutes his advance guard, consisting of about 300 men, and himself were blown into the air by the explosion of the grand magazine.

Some time before this horrible circumstance took place, the vessels had commenced firing upon the garrison, which obliged the females, children, &c., to leave it. We therefore retired into the country to the house of an officer of militia, where we remained a short time; but feeling anxious to know the fate of the day, I left the house without the knowledge of my mother and was proceeding towards the garrison when the explosion took place. I heard the report and felt a tremulous motion in the earth resembling the shock of an earthquake, and looking towards the spot I saw an immense cloud ascend into the air. I was not aware at the moment what it had been occasioned by, but it had an awfully grand effect. At first it was a great confused mass of smoke, timber, men, earth, &c., but as it rose in a most majestic manner it assumed the shape of a vast balloon. When the whole mass had ascended to a considerable height, and the force by which timber, &c., were impelled upwards became spent, the latter fell from the cloud and spread on the surrounding plain. I stopped to observe the cloud, which preserved its round shape while it remained within my view. I then advanced towards the garrison, but had not proceeded much farther until I discovered our little party collected in a close body between the town and that place, which latter they had been obliged to evacuate. After observing their motions for a short time I looked

towards the garrison, when I became the melancholy spectator of what I had never witnessed upon any former occasion and what I had little anticipated on this. Just as the flag staff caught my eye I saw—and, oh! how my young feelings were harrowed and my patriotic pride humbled at the sight—I saw the “meteor flag” of England bow by impious traitorous hands\* to the then triumphant “star-spangled” banner of America.

Finding that the garrison, which was very near me, was in the possession of the Americans, and consequently that all was over, I returned to the house where I had left my mother, and shortly after I reached it a soldier came to us with directions to proceed to the town as fast as possible.

We had a 26-gun frigate upon the stocks at York, the capture or destruction of which was probably the principal object the Americans had in view in this expedition; the yard where it was building was about midway between the town and the garrison, and as the enemy were not sufficiently good soldiers to improve the advantage they had obtained by following our troops immediately after they got possession of the garrison, but on the contrary remained in it for some time afterwards—the second error, highly disadvantageous to them this day—our people had fortunately an opportunity of consuming the ship and thereby preventing it from falling into other hands. This was a particularly happy circumstance, since the possession of it would have rendered them complete masters of the lake for a long time and most probably during the remainder of the war.

On reaching the town we found the soldiers evacuating it on their retreat towards Kingston, and there being no alternative we joined them just as we were and left the town.

As in the morning we had very foolishly entertained no apprehension of being defeated, but left our quarters confident of soon returning, and walked out from the breakfast table as if to look at some curiosity, we brought no clothing with us more than we wore at the moment, and consequently left York about 4 o'clock in the afternoon to commence a journey of 200 miles through the woods of America without an outside garment of any description or a second pair of shoes. The snow had just thawed, also, which, with the heavy and copious rains usual at this season, rendered the roads, that are bad at best, almost impassable.

We met the light company of the 8th Regiment at the end of the town, where they had just arrived after marching from Kingston, and without making the least halt were obliged, to their *great*

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\*The English flag was hauled down and the American substituted by a sergeant who had deserted from the British army.

*satisfaction* no doubt, to turn and "mark the self-same track again."

At a short distance from town we met several of the inhabitants of the country going to it, who made no scruple to express themselves well satisfied with our *success* and their new masters. We had walked but a few miles when the weather changed and it began to rain heavily, which with the late hour of the evening induced us to take shelter in the first house we came to. This was a small cottage of only one apartment, eight miles from York, where we were obliged to stay for the night, as the next house was two miles farther on.

The majority of the inhabitants of this part of the country evinced great disloyalty as we proceeded, being much gratified with the success of the Americans, and, considering they had nothing to fear from us, did not hesitate to avow it. In many instances they concealed their horses, wagons, &c., in the woods to avoid accommodating us with them, and told us they had none.

(PP. 282-300, Toronto Public Library.)

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**From the Quebec Mercury, Tuesday, 25th May, 1813.**

Extract of a letter written by a gentleman of high respectability, dated at Kingston, 12th May, 1813.

There never was a greater act of bravery than in the following instance:—Sergeant Derby, of the 8th or King's Regiment, after the battle at York retreated with———but (I suppose) not liking his company he and four others got a batteau and returned to York and recovered a great quantity of soldiers' knapsacks and firelocks, with many other articles belonging to the company. He then made the best of his way for Kingston, but the batteau being very old he was obliged to beach her. He then determined to return a second time to York, which he did, and cut out a barge from under the lighthouse, which belonged to the late General Brock, amidst the American guard boats and vessels, and returned to where he left his old boat, loaded the barge and arrived here last night, and was in sight of the vessels, (the enemy's,) two days, whilst they were beating down. You may mention the fact, as I saw the sergeant himself, and was told of the same by that worthy man, Major———. I saw also the baggage and the regiment's drum. What a pity this gallant fellow had not a commission.

(File in the Library of Parliament, Ottawa.)

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**From the Montreal Gazette, 9th June, 1813.**

Extract from a letter dated Kingston, 23d May, 1813:

Our whole force consisted of two companies of the King's, two weak companies of the Newfoundland, forty men of the Glengarry sharpshooters, about 320 men and forty Indians; to this force was opposed 3,000 regular troops of the enemy, covered by the fire of armed vessels carrying 36 pieces of ordnance.

It was impossible even to condense the little force we had until it was ascertained where they meant to land, and whether they had not landed in the night a part of their force on our left flank, of which towards the evening of the 26th there was a strong demonstration. The flotilla came to anchor before our garrison about 6 o'clock in the morning, and by 7 the firing commenced upon their landing party. The situation of the ground was unfavorable to regular troops, for the enemy's rifle corps took to the woods near the landing, and under that cover annoyed and half-destroyed the grenadiers of the King's Own; their captain fell early and the company broke. The Newfoundland and militia destined to support the grenadiers were obliged to give way, and, although they were rallied by Sir Roger in person, eventually left him with his aide-de-camp, Captain Loring, between the enemy and our retreating force. After the first repulse we collected in numbers at our battery of two 18-pounders, which whilst filled and surrounded by troops was blown up by an accidental fire set to the moveable magazine. The consequent dispersion of the militia was not recovered; the column of the enemy having gained the bank this battery was abandoned and the retreat continued, Sir Roger directing the magazine to be blown up, which was done with a tremendous explosion, destroying the enemy's General Pike and about 200 men. The match was rather short or the whole column would have been in the air. Captain Loring's horse was killed by the fall of a stone and himself stunned. A halt was made before we got to the shipyard, the object of the expedition. Sir Roger deciding upon a retreat, between 3 and 4 in the afternoon directed the ship and the naval storehouse to be burnt, which was done, and he effected his retreat, with about 200 regulars, to Kingston.

(File in Library of Parliament, Ottawa.)

**From "The War," Vol. I., No. 49, p. 204.**

Extract of a letter from a field officer in the force which landed at York, to the Department of War:

The column of attack consisted of the 6th, 15th, 16th and 21st Regiments of infantry and a detachment of light and heavy artil-

lery. Major Forsyth's corps of riflemen and Lieut.-Colonel McClure's corps of volunteers acted on the flanks. There was a long piece of woods to go through, which offered many obstacles to our heavy ordnance. As was expected, we were there annoyed on our flanks by a party of the British and Indians, with a 6-pounder and two howitzers. One of the enemy's batteries accidentally blew up, by which they lost fifty men of the 8th Regiment. A part of our force was detached from our column as it came into the open ground, which carried the second battery by storm. The troops were halted a few minutes to bring up the heavy ordnance to play on the block-house. General Sheaffe, despairing of holding the town, ordered fire to be put to the magazine in which there were 500 barrels of powder, many cartloads of stone, and an immense quantity of iron shells and shot. The explosion was tremendous. The column was raked from front to rear. General Pike and his three aids and 250 officers and men were killed and wounded in the column. Notwithstanding this calamity and the discomfiture that might be expected to follow it, the troops gave three cheers, instantly formed the column and marched on towards the town. General Sheaffe fled and left his papers and baggage behind him. About 60 regulars accompanied him, leaving their wounded in every farm house. They acknowledge the loss of three hundred killed and wounded. Their force consisted of 1,000 men. We took between four and five hundred prisoners.

(File in Library of Buffalo Historical Society.)

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(From the United States Gazette of Philadelphia, 24th May, 1813.)

Letter from an officer in the United States army to the Editor of the *United States Gazette*:

In the woods, 4 miles from Niagara, May 9, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—

We landed here last night from the fleet which had just arrived from York. Ere this reaches you I presume the official account of the victory we gained over the British will have been published, so that this letter will afford you no new intelligence except a few incidents too trivial for an official paper. I will principally extract from my journal.

On Friday, 23d April, embarked on board the fleet lying at Sackett's Harbor, commanded by Commodore Chauncey. The wind became very tempestuous and we put back. April 24th we collected a few more troops on board. About 5 a. m. on the 25th April the fleet set sail, wind fair and weather beautiful. The wind and wea-

ther continued fair. About midnight, within three hours sail of land, saw a light ahead. 27th, at daylight saw York lighthouse. At 6 a. m. the fleet took in sail and bore down about a mile and a half below the enemy's batteries, and moored opposite what is called the old French fort. About 7 we commenced landing the troops from the shipping. At half-past 7 we were landed on the beach and attacked by the British and Indians. At 8 o'clock the enemy gave way. Major Forsyth and his riflemen, followed by the 15th Regiment, supported themselves on the hill. The British fought very gallantly and made an attempt to charge. They were driven back. The Indians shouted and retreated in much disorder. The Canadian militia followed the Indians.

Our troops were forming line in the plain called the old French fort. The British troops were in the woods within half gun shot. A brisk fire was commenced. The enemy was compelled finally to retreat, about five minutes after nine. Our troops were formed in open column and advanced with a howitzer and six-pounder in front, commanded by Lieut. Fanning, (Captain Brooks being absent,) who did much execution on the enemy's battery. The grape shot was whistling about us from their battery as we advanced. About 10 o'clock we carried two of their batteries. At half past 10 our column halted for six more pieces of artillery, ordered by Major Eustis to advance to the front to support Lieut. Fanning.

About eleven o'clock the enemy fired their magazine and immediately retired. An explosion ensued which scattered terror and death into our ranks. The brave General Pike was mortally wounded, Captain Lyon was killed. Capt. J. W. Fox was also mortally wounded by my side; many more strewed around in every direction.

Our troops gave three cheers in the midst of this dreadful scene. Not a single company of the first brigade gave way. The scene around seemed to add vigor to their strength. About one o'clock we had possession of all three batteries. At two the column halted and sent a flag of truce by Captain Young, demanding a surrender of all their stores, troops, &c. The officer who received the flag replied that he was authorized by General Sheaffe to capitulate, during which time the commanding General and all his regular troops retreated, leaving us to take a few hundred scattered militia. The enemy as they retreated set fire to the naval storehouse as well as to a large ship building in the ship yard. About 30 minutes after 3 we marched triumphantly through the town of York. At 4 we returned to the garrison, previously occupied by the British, and took comfortable quarters. About half-past 5 I visited the field of battle and saw a vast number of wounded who

were not assisted by a single surgeon, but left to groan and bleed to death by their wounds. At six returned to the garrison and sent a party of men to bring the wounded from the cold ground. About 7 p. m. the surgeon and mate of the 6th Regiment took charge of the wounded, who had been brought up to the garrison. At 8 p. m. I returned to my quarters very much fatigued.

(File in the Philadelphia Library, Philadelphia.)

### **Memo. by Lieut.-Colonel Glegg.**

Casualties in a detach't of the 8th or King's Regt. stationed at York in Upper Canada when that place was captured by the Americans, 27th April :

|                                       | Killed. | Wounded. | Missing. |
|---------------------------------------|---------|----------|----------|
| Grenadier Comp'y .....                | 46      | 30       |          |
| Capt. Eustace's Comp'y.....           | 6       | 6        | 9        |
| Batt'n Comp'y attached to grenadiers. | 7       |          |          |
|                                       | 59      | 36       | 9        |

J. B. GLEGG, B. M.

(From a memorandum book in possession of Lieut.-Col. Turner.)

### **Return of Killed, Wounded, Prisoners and Missing of the Troops at York under the Command of Major-General Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe, on the 27th ultimo.**

KINGSTON, May 10th, 1813.

Royal Artillery—Three gunners killed; one driver wounded and prisoner, one bombardier, three gunners prisoners; total 9.

8th or King's Regiment—One captain, one sergeant-major, four sergeants, 40 rank and file killed; two sergeants, two rank and file wounded, 25 rank and file wounded and prisoners, one rank and file missing; total 77.

Royal Newfoundland Regiment—One sergeant, one drummer, ten rank and file killed; one drummer, six rank and file wounded; one lieutenant, three sergeants, one drummer, eight rank and file wounded and prisoners; two rank and file prisoners, two rank and file missing; total 36.

Glengarry Light Infantry—Two rank and file killed; one ensign, three rank and file wounded; three rank and file missing.



49th Regiment—Three rank and file wounded and prisoners; two rank and file missing, in hospital; total 5.

#### RECAPITULATION.

One captain, one sergeant-major, four sergeants, one drummer, fifty-two rank and file killed; one ensign, two sergeants, one drummer, thirty rank and file wounded; one lieutenant, four sergeants, one drummer, thirty-six rank and file, one driver, wounded and prisoners; six rank and file, one bombardier, three gunners, prisoners; six rank and file, one gunner, missing.

#### NAMES OF OFFICERS KILLED AND WOUNDED.

Killed—8th or King's Regiment—Captain McNeal, Volunteer Donald McLean, Clerk of the House of Assembly.

Wounded—Royal Newfoundland Regiment—Lieutenant De Koven, (prisoner.) Glengarry Light Infantry—Ensign Robins, slightly. General staff—Captain Loring, 104th Regiment, slightly. Incorporated Militia—Captain Jarvis, volunteer; Mr. Hartney, barrack master. No return yet received of the loss of the militia.

RICHARD LEONARD,  
Acting-Deputy-Assistant-Adjutant-General.

EDWARD BAYNES,  
Adjutant-General, North America.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 121, 222 a.)

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#### From "A Statistical Account of Upper Canada" by Robert Gourlay, 1822.

The flour and other provisions were, by General Dearborn's order, distributed among the poor people of the town and garrison. A party of American sailors, without the knowledge or orders of their commanders, set fire to the two wings of the Parliament House and consumed them, with the adjoining clerks' offices and the library and papers deposited there, under a pretense of irritation on account of a scalp alleged to have been found suspended as a trophy. This statement, that the burning was by the American sailors, is the result of all my inquiries on the subject, though Captain Grafton, who commanded the American guard, declares that "upon discovering the fire he hastened to the place and found some inhabitants standing near it; that he asked them who set it on fire; their reply was that they did not know, that there were no sailors or soldiers to be seen, and he thought it as probable that some disaffected inhabitants had done it as that any American

soldiers or sailors had been guilty of disobeying the orders of their commanders."

Notwithstanding his opinion, it is an unquestionable fact that the fire was set by a number of Americans, supposed from their appearance to be sailors, unattended by any officer.

But according to a statement of a member of the House of Representatives, who was acquainted with the circumstances, they were simply these: The scalp was sent as a curiosity enclosed in a letter from an officer in the army to his friend the Clerk of the House. Upon opening the letter he and two or three others who happened to be present were disgusted at the sight and threw the letter into an under drawer of his table among a parcel of old papers. There it was probably found by some of the sailors, who imposed on the officers the fiction of its having been suspended on the walls of the house.

(Vol. I., pp. 90-1.)

### **Return of Garrison and Field Ordnance at the Undermentioned Posts.**

FORT GEORGE, 31st March, 1813.

#### **GARRISON ORDNANCE.**

In six batteries on the left of Fort George—One 24-pdr. carronade, iron; one 18-pdr. carronade, iron; three iron 9-pdrs., five brass 4  $\frac{2}{5}$  inch mortars.

In Fort George—Two 24-pdr. iron carronades, one iron 12-pdr., one brass 10 inch mortar, one brass 8 inch mortar.

In three batteries between Fort George and Queenston—One iron 12-pdr., two iron 9-pdrs.

At Queenston—Two iron 9-pdrs.

At Chippawa—Two iron 9-pdrs., one iron 6-pdr. Gunboats at Chippawa, four iron 12-pdrs.

At Fort Erie—One iron 18-pdr., two iron 12-pdrs., one iron 6-pdr., one 8 inch brass mortar.

Total on the line of the Niagara—Three 24-pdrs., two 18-pdrs., four 12-pdrs., nine 9-pdrs., two 6-pdrs.; long guns, four 12-pounder carronades, one ten inch, two eight inch, five 4  $\frac{2}{5}$  inch mortars.

At York—Two 18-pounder long guns, two 12-pounders, six 6-pounders, eight 18-pounder carronades.

#### **FIELD ORDNANCE.**

On the left of Fort George—One brass 12-pounder; at Fort

George—one brass 6-pounder, one brass 5½ inch howitzer, one iron 6-pounder.

At Queenston—Two brass 3-pounders.

At Chippawa—One brass 6-pounder.

At Fort Erie—Three brass 6-pounders, two brass 3-pounders.

At York—Two brass 6-pounders.

Small arms—At Fort George, 720 English muskets, 240 French muskets.

(Canadian Archives, C. 387, pp. 48-50.)

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**Extract from a Letter from Lieut.-Col. Bruyeres, R. E., to Sir George Prevost.**

KINGSTON, 13th February, 1813.

The works at Fort George are in a very ruinous and unfinished condition. Fortunately the line of parapet to the curtain opposite the American fort was completed last fall, and protected the troops during the cannonade then. It should be completed as a field work as soon as the season will permit, and the line diminished by cutting off the present work on the south eastern front, to reduce the extent of the fort and splinter proof barracks built to contain 400 men. The present blockhouses are so much exposed that it will be necessary to take down the upper story and lower them to the level of the *terre pleine*. The public buildings at Navy Hall should be removed. There are six detached batteries, containing eleven guns, between the lake and Fort George; four batteries with five pieces between Fort George and Queenston, two batteries with two guns at Queenston on the Mountain, two batteries with three guns at Chippawa, three batteries with three guns opposite Black Rock, below Fort Erie. These batteries should be protected in rear by palisades to guard against sudden surprise. This would have been done last fall but the force was constantly employed and harassed. I have directed this to be done, and small magazines to contain a few barrels of powder to be constructed. A tower or redoubt should be built on Missassauga Point to command the entrance to the river. The work at Fort Erie should be completed. The battery to protect the fort should be constructed of sod-work with traversing carriages. So many of the houses in this quarter have been destroyed by fire that quarters should be built to lodge the men. Twenty-eight miles of this frontier are accessible and favourable to disembark. The force must be augmented. The ship at York is not far advanced. I have arranged to arm her with eight eighteen-pounder carronades to spare at Fort George and now on their way to York, two long eighteen-pounders, expected from

Lower Canada, and ten 12-pounders now on the *Prince Regent*, the *Prince Regent* to be armed with six-pounders from the *Gloucester*.

(Canadian Archives, C. 378.)

**Extract from a Letter from Colonel R. H. Bruyeres, R. E., to Major-General R. H. Sheaffe.**

KINGSTON, 19th Feb'y, 1813.

I am opinion this may be made a very strong position, capable of resisting every effort of the enemy, and this at a very moderate expense. I wish I could say as much in favor of the position at York, but I do not think it possible to do anything there with advantage at present. It will require immense labor and expense to make it a strong post, for it does not possess any advantageous feature of ground to work upon. It must be all art, without any assistance of nature.

(Canadian Archives, Q., 162, p. 341.)

**Lieut.-Colonel George Macdonell to Rev'd Alexander Macdonell, Glengarry.**

PRESCOTT, Feb'y, 28, 1813.

SIR,—I avail myself of the first moment of leisure I have had since my assault upon Ogdensburg and Fort Oswegatchie to return you my warmest thanks [for the services] rendered by you on that day, both to the Government and myself.

I have long seen with admiration the zealous measures you have invariably pursued since the commencement of hostilities to stimulate and encourage the valuable Highland population of this district under the many privations they must have unavoidably experienced in being in the immediate vicinity of the seat of war, and I am convinced that your address to that portion of my embodied militia under your pastoral care on the eve of the attack of the 22d instant, contributed much to the decided and persevering gallantry which allowed no obstacle to resist them.

I must also thank you for the energetic steps which I find you took to enforce the order I had sent back from Ogdensburg for the general requisition of the transport of this district after the successful termination of the attack, as I have reason to think the fidelity (*sic*) of some people would have reduced me to the necessity of leaving very valuable stores in the enemy's store, which your active assistance gave me the means of lodging safely in His Majesty's magazines.

I embrace this opportunity of expressing also my thanks for the valuable personal activity and professional influence displayed by you in collecting and exciting volunteers from the Highland Militia regiments, who in November last formed the advance guard under my command in the successful little expedition against the enemy's strong position at the French Mills on Salmon River.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 157-1, pp. 645.)

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**From a Diary kept by Thomas McCrae of the Township of Raleigh near Chatham.**

RALEIGH, 4th May, 1813.

This is a most extraordinary wet season ; the like has not been seen for many years.

9th May.

This last week has been a most extraordinary week of wet weather as has been seen for many years. The rain began on Monday morning, (3d May,) and but seldom ceased night or day until Saturday afternoon.

11th May.

Most of the militia returned this afternoon. They have not taken the fort at the foot of the rapids.

(From the original in the possession of A. McCrae, Buffalo, N. Y.)

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**Memorandum by Captain W. H. Merritt.**

Nothing material transpired until the capture of York, when I was sent to bring the boats down at Burlington. I performed this service so quick that Gen. Vincent and Harvey, who I conceived to be most against me, took me by the hand, thanked me for the service I had performed, praised my zeal, &c., &c., &c. Appearances from this changed ; the former ever after proved my best friend ; he was really and truly a good man. I was made a volunteer aid to Col. Harvey after this ; had the pleasure of riding every night up and down the river with him. They found the dragoons now of service ; there was a patrol every night up to Queenston and back. Our horses were getting better and the men received every encouragement, which they needed, as it was impossible for the duty to be more severe. Some men were actually on picket 12 and 14 nights following. Many false alarms took place.

(From the Merritt MSS.)

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**Memo. by Lieut.-Colonel Glegg.**

Distribution return of the troops of the line under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp, 3d May, 1813 :

| Corps.                                                | Stations,                | R. & File. | Total. |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|--------|
| Royal Artillery                                       | { Fort Erie.....         | 10         | 25     |
|                                                       | { Batteries.....         | 8          |        |
|                                                       | { Putnam's.....          | 2          |        |
| Do. Drivers                                           | { Chippawa.....          | 5          |        |
|                                                       | { Fort Erie.....         | 1          |        |
| 8th, King's Regt.                                     | { Wintermute's.....      | 84         | 84     |
|                                                       | { Chippawa.....          |            |        |
| 41st Regt.                                            | { Fort Erie.....         | 178        | 295    |
|                                                       | { Batteries.....         | 33         |        |
|                                                       | { Chippawa.....          | 84         |        |
| 49th Regt.                                            | { Frenchman's Creek..... | 53         | 145    |
|                                                       | { Chippawa.....          | 92         |        |
| Glengarry's—Putnam's.....                             |                          | 109        | 109    |
|                                                       |                          |            | 659    |
| Add Royal Newf'dl'd not included, Fort Erie and Ferry |                          |            | 95     |
|                                                       |                          |            | 754    |

(From memorandum book in possession of Lieut.-Col. G. V. Turner.)

**Memo. by Lieut.-Col. Glegg.**

Garrison state, Fort George, 5th May, 1813 :

|                       | Present fit for duty. | Sick |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------|
| Royal Artillery.....  | 26                    | 4    |
| 8th, King's Regt..... | 205                   | 9    |
| 41st.....             | 165                   | 0    |
| 49th.....             | 232                   | 23   |
| Total..               | 628                   | 36   |
| Black corps.....      | 23                    | 5    |
| Militia.....          | 172                   |      |
| Grand total..         | 923                   | 41   |
| Artificers.....       | 88                    |      |
| 1011                  |                       |      |

(From memorandum book in possession of Lieut.-Col. G. Villiers Turner, Reading, England.)

**Sir James Yeo to Hon. John Wilson Croker.**

QUEBEC, NORTH AMERICA, the 5th May, 1813.

(No. 1.)

SIR,—I have the honour to request you will be pleased to state for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that I arrived here this morning in His Majesty's ship *Woolwich*. I am sorry to inform their Lordships that the American flotilla with troops made an attack on the town of York on the Lake Ontario on the 28th ultimo, and that they obtained possession of it and the ship of 30 guns, which was building there. From the information I have received during my little stay here it appears the enemy have a great superiority of naval force assembled on the lakes, having armed all their vessels with 32 and 18-pounder guns and 32-pounder carronades, whereas ours have only 18-pounder carronades.

I therefore trust their Lordships will give such orders respecting the further supply of ordnance as they may deem necessary.

His Excellency Sir George Prevost left this place yesterday for Upper Canada, where I hope to follow him this evening or early to-morrow morning.

Also, to assure their Lordships that the utmost exertions shall be used on my part to give a favorable turn to operations in that quarter.

I cannot close this letter without expressing the high sense I entertain of Captain Sullivan's unremitted attention and perseverance upon all occasions during our passage, particularly in conducting the *Woolwich* through the immense quantities of ice which we met on the coast of America and in approaching the River St. Lawrence.

(Admiralty papers, Canadian Archives, M. 389-6, p. 12.)

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**Maitland, Gardner & Auldjo, to Thomas Cummings & Co.**

MONTREAL, 6th May, 1813.

DEAR SIRS,—

Yours of the 5th March only reached us 4th inst. The bills are sent to Quebec. We trust you have sold your pork and flour. Mr. Crooks, we have no doubt, got the prices at which we offered yours; we are therefore astonished it had not been accepted of. Considering the risk from the enemy it must at all times be prudent to get as much out of danger as possible. The late event at York strongly verifies this opinion, more especially at a time there was no prospect of your being able to send it down. We strongly

recommend your securing everything by sale or otherwise while the chance of war is so great. 400 seamen under experienced officers are arrived at Quebec; may be here to-morrow; Sir John L. Yeo, commandant for the lake service; they will be pushed up immediately. Sir George goes as far as Kingston. Troops are looked for every hour.

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**John C. Spencer to General P. B. Porter.**

May 6, 1813.

SIR,—Your two letters received to-day were very welcome. God is with us. By the eastern mail just received, and from Dominie Wigton, who is not quite *orthodox*, we learn the certainty of Tompkins' election by at least 4000 majority—New York gives 300 for V. Rensselaer and 150 only for the Fed. Assembly ticket; Rockland, 500 for Tompkins, Dutchess, 450 for V. R.; Columbia, 600; Rensselaer, 830; Albany, 1175; Greene, 250; Oneida, 700; Madison, 250; Montgomery, small against us. Orange, 1152 for Tompkins; Suffolk, 1500; Cayuga, 1282; Seneca, 600; Genesee, 982. There yet remains some doubt of the House of Assembly. However, we have carried Washington, which gives us a gain of 3, amounting to 6. We shall certainly succeed in Jefferson 2 more, amounting to 4; probably in Otsego, 4, so that there is yet great chance of success even there. This is all we know. You have set me such an excellent example of punctuality that you may depend on my steadily following it. Be so good as to let me hear from you whenever anything happens. Your letter was so good and joyful that I could not resist the temptation of publishing it. I assure you I made no corrections.

P. S.—I have just heard from Steuben—majority for Tompkins 60, and Rep. Assembly ticket 84. Allegany is all safe. Onondaga gives 200 for Tompkins.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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**Memorandum by Mr. Thomas G. Ridout.**

KINGSTON, 5th May, 1813.

I left York on Sunday the 2d instant at noon, at which time the American fleet, consisting of the *Madison*, *Oneida* and ten schooners, with the *Gloucester*, were lying at anchor about ten miles from the garrison, windbound by a south east wind. All their troops were embarked the evening before excepting a small party, who burned the large block house, Government House and officers' quarters. At nine in the morning a naval officer came down to town



and collected ten men out of the taverns, where they had been all night. The commissariat magazines were shipped the preceding days and great quantities of the provisions given to our country people, who brought their waggons down to assist the Americans to transport the public stores found at Mr. Elmsley's house and Boulton's barn. The lower block house and government buildings were burned on Saturday. Major Givin's and Dr. Powell's houses were entirely plundered by the enemy and some persons from the Humber. Jackson and his two sons and Sudden the butcher had been riding through the country ordering the militia to come in and be put on their paroles, which caused great numbers to obey voluntarily and through fear. Duncan Cameron, Esq., delivered all the monies in the Receiver General's hands, to the amount, as I understand, of £2,500, over to Capt. Elliott of the American navy, the enemy having threatened to burn the town if it was not given up. On Friday, the 30th, the Chief Justice, Judge Powell, my father, Dr. Strachan and D. Cameron called upon General Dearborn requesting that he would allow the magistrates to retain their authority over our own people. Accordingly he issued a general order saying it was not his intention to deprive the magistracy of its civil functions; that they should be supported, and if any of the United States troops committed any depredation a strict scrutiny into it should follow. The gaol was given up to the sheriff, but no prisoners. The public provincial papers were found but ordered to be protected, so that nothing was destroyed excepting the books, papers, records and furniture of the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly. It was said they had destroyed our batteries and taken away the cannon. The barracks were not burnt. The American officers said their force on the 27th was three thousand land force and one thousand seamen and marines, and their loss was five hundred killed and wounded.

(From "Ten Years of Upper Canada," by Lady Edgar, pp. 185-6.)

### Major-General Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.

KINGSTON, 8th May, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor of transmitting some documents which will furnish Your Excellency with some information of transactions which have occurred at York since the retreat from thence. I have not been able yet to collect all the details that I wish to accompany my official report. I therefore withhold it till the return of Captain Milnes, who is himself desirous of remaining here a little longer, and I also wish it with the hope of his conveying a confirmation of a report that General Harrison has been taken by Tecumthseh.

Captain Swazey was despatched to me by B. General Vincent after he had heard of the loss of York, and arrived here a day or two since. On his way to the head of the lake from Fort George he met a person travelling express to that place from Amherstburg, who informed him that Tecumthseh had attacked General Harrison at the head of three hundred men, the advanced corps of a reinforcement on its way to join his army, which he had left entrenched near the foot of the rapids, and that he was taken and his men "cut to pieces." At the head of the lake he met a Doctor Graham who resides in that vicinity and was on his return from Dolson's on the River Thames, where he saw an Indian who said he had been in the action, and related the same circumstances that Captain Swazey had before heard. It was further related that B. General Procter had taken the field with five hundred troops of the line, two hundred militia and fourteen hundred Indians, with an intention of attacking the corps near the foot of the rapids before the junction of their expected reinforcements.

From our latest accounts from York it appears that the Americans intended to abandon it. It is said that they confessed they did not expect half the resistance they met with, and that the possession of York had cost them dearly. They were very much mortified at my escaping from them. There were a few men still on their way down. Mr. Plunket with forty or fifty of the dockyard [men] have arrived yesterday. Some more are coming. Correct returns of the casualties have not been received yet. The total loss in killed, wounded and missing amounts to one hundred and fifty or perhaps more, of which the proportion of the King's Regiment may be about one-half. Lieut. De Koven remained at York, wounded in the foot, and Captain Loring and Ensign Robins of the Glengarry corps were injured by the explosion of the magazine. The latter is again quite well, but Captain Loring still feels some inconvenience from his hurt.

Captains Barclay, Pring and Finnis and four naval lieutenants have arrived. It will no doubt give Your Excellency great satisfaction to learn that they are much pleased with their vessels. Captain Barclay has taken the new ship and Captains Pring and Finnis are appointed to the *Royal George* and the *Moirra*.

Captain Gray, at the desire of Captain Barclay, is acting as a kind of commissioner to the dockyard. There is much yet to be done here for the defence of the place and shipping, a report on which will be transmitted by Captain Milnes.

I have had the honour of receiving Your Excellency's letters of the 21st and 22d of April. The three militia men under sentence of a General Court Martial shall be sent down by an early oppor-

tunity. I thank Your Excellency for the suggestion of reporting to the Secretary of State, and to the Treasury the causes of the increased expenditure. Lieut.-Colonel Bruyeres of the Royal Engineers has arrived from York. I have communicated to him Your Excellency's sentiments on his tardy progress to this post, and I have repeated my endeavors to rouse him to a sense of the necessity for the utmost diligence and activity in his department, from all of which a beneficial effect seems to have been produced. His wife and family were left at York.

I have issued an order calling on the several departments connected with the marine to contribute their utmost efforts towards accelerating the progress of the naval preparations.

(C. 678, p. 221.)

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**Lieut.-Colonel Harvey to Lieut.-Colonel Claus.**

FORT GEORGE, 8th May, 1813.

I am directed by Brigadier-General Vincent, commanding the troops on this frontier, to desire that you will hold yourself in readiness to assume the command of the garrison of Fort George in the event of the 49th Regiment, under Lieut.-Col. Plenderleath, being required to move out for the purpose of opposing the attack which there is reason to believe the enemy meditates upon this post.

The Brigadier-General feels the most entire confidence in your best exertions for the defence of this important post with the limited means which the Brigadier-General may be enabled to place at your disposal, and which, I am to assure you, shall be as great as circumstances will permit.

You are to use your discretion in the supply of ammunition and arms to such militiamen as may come in unprovided with them; of the former you are requested to be as sparing as possible.

(From MSS. in possession of Miss Claus, Niagara, Ont.)

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**A. S. Clark to General Peter B. Porter.**

CLARENCE, May 10, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—

Major Hill yesterday rode the whole day in order to see how many volunteers he could get, and informs me this morning that scarcely a man was willing at this time to leave his business, and he thinks nothing short of a cannonading will start them. The spring has been so wet that most of the farmers are very backward in their business, and as the season is fast approaching when they

ought to be planting I am of opinion none will turn out until planting is over. All say they will then turn out for ten or twelve days.

(From MSS. in Library of Buffalo Historical Society.)

**Major-General Æneas Shaw to Lieut.-Colonel Graham, Commanding 1st Regt. York Militia.**

May ———, 1813.

SIR,—The present situation of affairs requiring that every support should be given to the Magistracy in the due execution of their duty, so that good order and tranquillity may be preserved in this part of the Province, it becomes necessary that a body of militia be assembled, to consist of one captain, two subalterns, 3 sergts. and thirty rank and file, at such place on Younge Street as you may deem most proper to be called on for the above purposes. The detachment will be placed under the command of Captain Selby, and two active and discreet subalterns must be selected to assist him. Mr. Commissary Crookshank will make the necessary arrangement for provisions. I have also to desire that measures may be taken to ascertain the number of arms in possession of the men of your regiment, and a return of those transmitted to me.

**Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe to Earl Bathurst.**

KINGSTON, UPPER CANADA, 13th May, 1813.

MY LORD,—

I regret to have to state to Your Lordship that the money in the Provincial Treasury fell into the enemy's hands when he obtained possession of York. It had been concealed, but the enemy having threatened to destroy the town unless it were produced it was given up. I do not know the exact amount, but from the best information I had been able to obtain it was about two thousand pounds. Mr. Selby was at the time in a state of insensibility from the illness which soon afterwards proved fatal to him.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 317, p. 122.)

**District General Orders.**

KINGSTON, 13th May, 1813.

D. G. O.

The Major-General commanding having received the returns from the corps of the line engaged with the enemy the 27th ultimo, laments to find that so many brave men suffered on that day. Though the result of it was not such as has been customary when-

ever the enemy has been encountered in this Province, it is consolatory to reflect that in gaining this success accidental circumstances, to which the operations of war are always liable, concurred to favor the enemy's vast superiority of numbers and combination of force, to oppose which the means of defence and situation at York could afford but inadequate aid.

By the explosion of a battery magazine the loss which the forces had in the action sustained was considerably augmented. Our total loss in killed and wounded was about 130, among the former the Major-General deeply regrets that Captain McNeal of the 8th (or King's) Regiment is numbered. He nobly fell at the head of his brave grenadiers. The loss of Donald Maclean, Esquire, Clerk of the House of Assembly, is also to be lamented. He gallantly volunteered his services with a musket, as did Mr. Beikie, Mr. Alexander Wood, Mr. Quetton St. George and perhaps others whose names are at present unknown. Captain Jarvie (Jarvis?) of the Incorporated Militia and Lieut. De Koven of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment were wounded. The number of the enemy's troops that landed are stated to have amounted to 2,500. It was not disgraceful for 200 to retire from such a force. The powder magazine was blown up and the new ship and naval stores destroyed to prevent them falling into the enemy's hands.

RICHARD LEONARD,

A. D. A. A. G.

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**Memo. by Lieut.-Colonel Glegg.**

13th May, 1813.

Recapitulation of totals fit for duty :

|                  | R. & F. |
|------------------|---------|
| Fort Erie.....   | 562     |
| Chippawa.....    | 100     |
| Queenston. ....  | 145     |
| Fort George..... | 790     |
|                  | <hr/>   |
|                  | 1597    |

|                                  |           |                                          |    |
|----------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------|----|
| Sub.                             | S[ergts.] | R. & F.                                  |    |
| Memo. 1                          | 3         | and 41 of the 8th King's, de-            |    |
|                                  |           | tached at De Puisaye's not included..... | 41 |
| Head of the Lake, 49th Regt..... |           |                                          | 15 |

Grand total..... 1653

(From a memorandum book in possession of Lt.-Col. Turner, Reading, England.)

**Memo. by Lieut.-Colonel Glegg.**

Return of prisoners belonging to His Majesty's regular forces now on parole at York, all of whom are wounded except five :

| Corps.                       | Lieuts. | Sergts. | Corps. | Drs. | R. & F. | Total |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|--------|------|---------|-------|
| Royal Artillery              |         | 1       |        |      | 4       | 5     |
| King's, 8th Regt.            |         | 2       | 2      |      | 24      | 26    |
| R. N <sup>o</sup> Land Regt. | 1       | 3       |        | 1    | 10      | 15    |
| 49th Regt.                   |         |         |        |      | 3       | 3     |
| Total.....                   | 1       | 6       | 2      | 1    | 41      | 51    |

(From a memorandum book in possession of Lieut.-Colonel Turner, Reading, England.)

**General Dearborn to the Secretary of War.**

HEADQUARTERS, NIAGARA, May 13, 1813.

SIR,—Commodore Chauncey with the fleet and troops arrived here on the evening of the 8th, and in the course of the night the troops were debarked in a very sickly and depressed state. A large proportion of the officers and men were sickly and debilitated. It was deemed expedient to give them time to recruit their health and spirits, and in the meantime for the fleet to return to Sackett's Harbor and take on board one thousand additional troops, and orders were despatched to Utica, Rome and Oswego to have the troops at those places forwarded here in boats from Oswego. Backus's corps of light dragoons, about four hundred, principally dismounted, and five hundred of the 11th Regiment from Burlington have been ordered to Sackett's Harbor. These with three hundred volunteers and a full company of artillery are to form a garrison at that place. Additional cannon will be mounted. General Brown of the militia has been requested to hold three or four hundred men of the immediate vicinity in readiness to aid the garrison in the event of any attack. My intention is to collect the main body of the troops at this place, and as soon as Commodore Chauncey returns and the forces from Oswego arrive to commence operations in as spirited and effectual a manner as practicable. This change in the proposed system of operations has been rendered necessary by a long series of the most unfortunate winds and weather that could have occurred at this season, and such as could not have been contemplated.

Colonel Scott reached this yesterday in boats from Oswego. He was seven days windbound in different places and narrowly escaped the loss of his boats and men. I had expected him on the 3d. I had almost given him up for lost.

General Harrison is invested, and presuming on the uncertainty

of events I shall make calculation of a reinforcement to the enemy of British and Indians from Detroit. We shall be prepared for them, and I shall consider a concentration of their force rather as a fortunate circumstance than otherwise.

I observed in a former letter that on my arrival here on the evening of the 2d the preparations for an immediate co-operation were not as complete as could have been expected. General Lewis was at 14 miles distance. Winder with his command was at Black Rock. The boats had not been transported from Schlosser; not one of the scows completed; the heavy guns and mortars not placed in the batteries; two 18 and two 12-pounders not mounted, but with all these defects we should have made the attack on the 4th or 5th if the fleet had arrived with the troops in health on the 3d as expected.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Volume I.)

**Major-General Dearborn to Governor Tompkins.**

NIAGARA, May 13, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—

From the accounts that have reached this place I may venture to congratulate you on your re-election as Governor. It is an important triumph. Every honest American in the United States must feel it as a most interesting event at this important crisis.

I have been compelled by adverse winds and incessant rains to postpone any further operations until the troops recover from the effects of their suffering on board the fleet, and in the meantime I have considered it expedient for Commodore Chauncey to return with his fleet to Sackett's Harbor for an additional force, and I have ordered a considerable force from Oswego and Utica to proceed in boats to this place. Within eight or ten days I hope to be fully prepared for active service.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 389-90, New York State Library.)

**Major-General Sheaffe to Lord Bathurst.**

KINGSTON, May 13th, 1813.

MY LORD,—

I trust there may be no difficulty about the payment for the house in York bought for public offices from the representatives of the late Chief Justice Elmsley. The house in which the person administering the government resided, with the buildings belonging to it, and that in which the Legislature assembled at York were destroyed by the enemy, in addition to two blockhouses and part of the barracks.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 317, p. 123.)

**Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.**

(No. 60.)

KINGSTON, UPPER CANADA, 18th May, 1813.

MY LORD,—

I have the honour of transmitting to Your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Major-General Sir Roger Sheaffe, containing the particulars of an attack made by the land forces and the flotilla of the enemy upon York in Upper Canada on the 27th ultimo. When Your Lordship adverts to the small proportion of regular force yet at my disposal and is informed that the United States have obtained a decided superiority on Lake Ontario in consequence of their exertions during the last six months to increase their marine, most particularly on that lake, whilst I have been unable to obtain from Admiral Sir John Warren a timely reinforcement of seamen with the naval officers, who were sent by him through the forests of New Brunswick to Quebec, where they arrived on the 20th of last month, I hope Your Lordship will feel disposed favourably to represent to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent the gallant efforts made by a handful of British troops for the preservation of the post they had to defend against the numerous force brought for its conquest.

The enemy left York on the 8th instant and proceeded to Niagara, where I understand they landed on the American side of the lake 1200 men under General Dearborn, for the purpose of strengthening their army on that line and probably with a view to make an attempt upon Fort Erie or Fort George. The flotilla afterwards returned to Sackett's Harbour, where I find from a flag of truce which came over the day before yesterday they remained on the 14th.

From the information I have received from an officer of the lake marine taken at York and sent over with the flag of truce, I find the enemy's force at Sackett's Harbour amounts to near five thousand men, and that they were making preparations for another expedition, but to what point the attack was to be directed I have not been able to ascertain.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 121, p. 209.)

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**Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.**

(No. 61.)

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON, UPPER CANADA,  
18th May, 1813.

MY LORD,—

I have the satisfaction to report to Your Lordship the arrival of Commodore Sir James Yeo with the officers and seamen under his command at Quebec on the 5th inst. in the *Woolwich*.

The first and second divisions of the officers and seamen have arrived in batteaux from Montreal at this post where they have found the vessels named in the margin in preparation to receive them. These vessels will not be armed so powerfully as I could have wished, but as well as the means at my disposal will admit, the guns expected from England and Halifax not having yet arrived.

That the instructions of His Majesty's Government respecting the naval ascendancy on Lake Ontario may be promptly and effectually carried into execution, I have accompanied Sir James Yeo to Kingston in order that every facility may be afforded to that officer in the accomplishment of the important object for which he has been sent from England.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 121, p. 223.)

**Sir Roger H. Sheaffe to Earl Bathurst.**

KINGSTON, UPPER CANADA, 18th May, 1813.

MY LORD,—

I do myself the honour of transmitting herewith for Your Lordship's information the copy of a letter I had the honour of addressing to His Excellency Sir George Prevost on the 5th instant, with its enclosures detailing the circumstances relating to the affair at York on the 27th of last month, together with extracts from letters addressed to His Excellency of the 29th of March and the 5th of this month, stating the causes which conspired to detain me at that place so long beyond the period I had previously assigned for my departure to Fort George, in addition to which I beg leave to state that civil business of importance to the colony, which had been accumulating for three months, besides that which was necessarily produced by the session of the Legislature, demanded a prolongation of my stay at York after the Provincial Parliament was prorogued.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 317, p. 131.)

**Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.**

(No. 62.)

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON, UPPER CANADA,  
18th May, 1813.

MY LORD,—

12th January, 1813.

Dup. No. 18.

11th Feb'y, 1813.

Dup. No. 21.

9th March, 1813.

Dup. No. 22.

16th March, 1813.

Orig. No. 23.

12th March, 1813.

Orig. No. 24.

20th March, 1813.

Orig. No. 25.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordship's despatches of the dates and numbers mentioned in the margin, together with the enclosures delivered to me by Major Coore.

I beg leave to assure Your Lordship that I am duly sensible of the exertions making by His Majesty's Government for supplying me with the reinforcements of troops and with the stores so necessary to enable me to meet with any prospect of success, the great efforts which the enemy have made and are making for the conquest of these Provinces, but particularly for that of

Upper Canada. My former despatches will have informed Your Lordship of the measures I have adopted for the defence of that Province.

The expectation of the speedy arrival of the troops from Spain and Ireland, whose embarkation Your Lordship has announced to me, has induced me to detach another body of troops, consisting of one troop of Provincial Dragoons, half a company of artillery, the Royal [Scots] or 1st Regiment, and four companies of grenadiers from Lower Canada to reinforce the posts in the Upper Province.

The late systematic movement of the enemy upon York, attended with sufficient means and favoured by their temporary naval superiority on Lake Ontario, indicate a strong disposition to make a still more decisive attempt upon that Province, but I am not without the hope that after the officers and seamen lately arrived have all reached the place of their destination, and the reinforcements now on their way to me shall have arrived, I shall be enabled to prevent the enemy from availing themselves of any advantage or footing they may gain in that quarter.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 121, p. 225.)

**(From the Buffalo Gazette, 18th May, 1813.)**

FROM LAKE ONTARIO.

After the battle of York the Government buildings, barracks, &c., were destroyed; all the public stores which could not be brought

away shared the same fate, and the town was entirely evacuated on the 1st of May, the militia prisoners paroled and the troops embarked, but owing to contrary winds the fleet, consisting of 16 or 17 sail, did not leave York until Saturday the 8th. In the afternoon of that day they arrived at Four Mile Creek below Fort Niagara and landed the troops and public property.

On Sunday evening two schooners under command of Lieut. Petigrue, having on board 100 picked men under Captain Willoughby Morgan of the 12th Regt., sailed for the head of Lake Ontario for the purpose of seizing a quantity of public stores. On their arrival they found the public stores guarded by 80 regulars. The guard retreated before our men landed; the stores were brought away and the public buildings burnt. The expedition returned on Tuesday last without loss.

The day after Lieut. Petigrue sailed for the head of the lake, Commodore Chauncey with the remainder of the fleet sailed for Sackett's Harbor.

The return of the fleet from the Harbor is daily looked for with a very respectable reinforcement.

Several persons, apparently deserters from Canada, last week gave themselves up to the military authority. They have been examined and report that the British force at Fort Erie and the batteries below is rising 600 regulars and a few militia.

Two persons have lately been arrested on these frontiers, former residents of Canada, charged with being spies. We shall mention their names should what is alleged against them prove true. They are, we understand, in safe custody.

It is reported that Gen. Sheaffe with a reinforcement of troops has arrived at Fort George. That position is now considered to be a place of considerable strength. The British have constructed a line of batteries between Fort George and Queenston in such positions as to rake every possible point of crossing the river.

Lieut.-Col. Preston of the 20th U. S. Infantry arrived in this village on Thursday last with a detachment of fine looking troops lately enlisted.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

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**Colonel Talbot to Brigadier-General Vincent.**

DOVER MILLS, 18th May, 1813.

MY DEAR GENERAL,—

Your favor of the 11th instant reached me at a late hour last night. I had for two days been anticipating much gratifying communication from you in consequence of reports having been current

of that General Procter had obtained a complete and brilliant victory over Harrison, likewise accounts stating that the officers and seamen had actually arrived at Kingston and that the most active exertions prevailed in the dockyard at that place, and as if good news was not to have an end it was said that Sir George Prevost intended to assume the command in this Province and was on his way up with a powerful reinforcement. From the source I have received the foregoing I am in hourly expectation of having my anxiety relieved by a confirmation of these desirable events from you. As to the York affair, as yet all my accounts of the disastrous and I fear disgraceful proceedings attending the capture have been by fragments. The *Governing Heads* must have been in a state of torpor not to have made arrangements for securing the office papers.

I will immediately attend to your instructions regarding the appointment of fit persons to be the bearers of despatches between myself and Major Hatt. Have the goodness to instruct me as to the pay of persons on express service.

The militia of the larger portion of this district shew great promptness in turning out, but there is a part of the County of Oxford that with a very few exceptions are, I am sorry to say, composed of a more violent and systematic *band* than those that compose the American army. Should Sir George reach the lines with a strong force I will recommend that all the aliens should be sent out of the Province with as little delay as possible. They are indefatigable in spreading discord amongst the inhabitants, and it would be a most salutary measure did circumstances admit to send 100 or even 50 regulars to be stationed at Turkey Point under an active and *steady* officer, as the presence of such a force would create the necessary confidence in the well disposed, and traitors would be *intimidated into* subordination.

I have every difficulty in procuring a correct return of the arms distributed thro' the district, the militiamen have been so careless of their arms. The chief of such as were on duty during the last autumn and winter on the lines and deserted or *ran home* left their arms behind them, and others had orders from Col. Bisshopp to deliver in their arms on being dismissed from Fort Erie. I am able to account for 350 stand, including the 100 which you ordered up lately.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

**Brigadier-General Vincent to Sir George Prevost.**

FORT GEORGE, 19th May, 1813.

SIR,—I was this day honored by Your Excellency's communication (duplicate) dated Montreal, 7th inst., which was brought by

an officer of militia despatched by Major-General Sheaffe from Kingston.

In expressing my high sense of obligation for so prompt an assurance of support in my efforts to maintain the independence of this frontier of His Majesty's dominions from invasion, I should be wanting in duty and justice to the zeal and energy of those officers who participate so largely in my confidence were I not to assure Your Excellency that the flattering assurance held forth in your communication has not only been truly gratifying to our mutual feelings but has created new energies throughout this command.

Your Excellency will have been apprized through my letters to Colonel Baynes that the American flotilla, after remaining at anchor off this harbor for three days without attempting any enterprise, proceeded down the lake, and the wind being favorable for Sackett's Harbor it is probable its destination was to that place.

Some of the smaller vessels remained and continued cruising for several days between this port and York, and previous to their final departure they landed a party of nearly two hundred men at the head of the lake with the express purpose of destroying the Government House and outbuildings. The small force stationed there for the sole purpose of keeping up our communication with York not being sufficiently strong to oppose the landing of that number, their debarkation being covered by the guns of the vessels, it was deemed prudent to fall back upon the reinforcements which, though quickly brought forward, were too late to chastise the marauding acts of an enemy who have precipitately retreated and avoided a contest. With the exception of an almost constant ostentatious parade of troops, artillery and boats immediately in our view on the opposite shore, no event has hitherto occurred deserving of notice on this frontier. Within the last few days the enemy has been busily employed in the construction of batteries opposite to this point with an apparent intention of threatened invasion.

I am happy to assure Your Excellency that the best spirit, zeal and exertions continue to animate every individual of the army on this frontier, and I feel confident that no effort will be wanting to repel invasion whenever it may be attempted, and no exertion will be omitted to prevent the enemy gaining a foothold in this Province.

Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp is perfectly aware of my ideas, and a plan of co-operation is mutually arranged in the event of that measure becoming necessary. I have considered it expedient to establish a depot of ammunition and provisions, in a very central and commanding position near a place called the Beaver Dams, in a stone house belonging to a captain of militia who is a loyal and faithful subject.

I have judged it proper to divide the force of this post into three divisions: the right under Lieut.-Colonel Harvey, the left under Colonel Myers, and the centre under my own immediate direction, each being so circumstanced as to give the most prompt support to each other. I propose leaving in the fort a company of the 49th Regiment, the guard and gunners, with a portion of the militia under Colonel Claus; and Captain Norton, whose anxiety and zeal for the public service is so constantly conspicuous, is encamped on my left towards the lake with about one hundred Indians, where it is probable the enemy might make a descent.

With respect to the militia, it is with regret that I can neither report favorably of their numbers nor their willing co-operation. Every exertion has been made and every expedient used to bring them forward and unite their efforts to those of His Majesty's forces, with but little effect, and desertion beyond all conception continues to mark their indifference to the important cause in which we are now engaged. In considering it my duty thus to offer a fresh exposition of my sentiments to Your Excellency respecting the militia of this Province, I must at the same time express a belief that when the reinforcements reach this frontier many of the inhabitants who have been for some time wavering and appalled by the specious force of the enemy's resources will instantly rally round the standard of their King and country.

Your Excellency's condescension in allowing me to point out my wants, calls for my respectful acknowledgments. Impressed with a conviction of the urgency and importance of sending off immediate aid to Brigadier-General Procter, I only await the arrival of the *Queen Charlotte* at Fort Erie to move a company and the headquarters of the 41st Regiment to Amherstburg, risking this diminution of my force under a confident persuasion that reinforcements are near at hand to replace them.

I herewith enclose a return of the regulars and militia on this line.

(C. 678, p. 301.)

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**Colonel Myers to Colonel Baynes.**

FORT GEORGE, May 20, 1813.

MY DEAR COLONEL,—

Since my letter to you of the 13th, matters have remained in nearly the same state.

Brigadier-General Vincent yesterday received a letter from Sir

George Prevost, and all the accounts which have reached us from Kingston are of the most cheering nature. What has become of Chauncey, Heaven knows. We had every reason to expect his return to this offing before now.

Our situation has been so fully detailed to you by General Vincent that it leaves me little to say on the subject. You are acquainted with our means and what are opposed to us. As far as appearances can justify the conclusion, I confess I feel no apprehension for the safety of this position for some time, and I have no doubt but help is at hand. I wrote Gray my ideas as to pushing on troops as far as the carrying place in batteaux, and we look hourly for the tidings of their approach. By their arrival we shall be enabled to look down the arrogance of the enemy in this quarter.

I do not think his means have increased since the statement sent you by General Vincent. I trust I will be pardoned in most earnestly recommending that a force be sent forth to this line to enable us to commence offensive operations. It is not wise to hold an enemy too cheap, but I cannot divest myself of the idea that the foe opposite us is despicable, and that it would be no hard task to dislodge him from the entire of his lines on the Niagara River. With some subordinate attacks upon his flanks, I am of opinion it would be an enterprise of little hazard for us to get an establishment on the heights above Lewiston, opposite to Queenston. This once effected I cannot but feel the strongest confidence that we would in a very short time complete the object so much to be desired. It would be giving such a new turn to the war that I conceive it would strike a terror into the enemy which would produce the happiest effects, and would inflict a just punishment on the vain-glorious turn which he will give to the disastrous affair at York. I hope I will be excused for thus writing. I confess I do so under feelings of some irritation and impatience for the chastisement of American arrogance. Should offensive operations be decided on here, may I indulge an humble hope that I may be permitted to partake in them.

We are anxiously on the lookout for the appearance of our vessels. I must not omit to acquaint you that the enemy are said to be building two twenty-gun vessels at Presqu' Isle on Lake Erie with five gunboats, and some smaller vessels are now rigging behind Squaw Island. I have had no very late accounts from the dock-yard at Amherstburg. The last were favorable. I am in hourly expectation of hearing of the arrival of the *Queen Charlotte* at Point Abino.

Nothing further occurs to me to mention at this moment beyond assuring you that the only sentiment pervading all ranks

here is the firm determination to bravely oppose all attempts of the enemy on this frontier.

(C. 678, p. 314.)

**Lieut.- Colonel Mahlon Burwell, 1st Middlesex Militia, to Colonel Talbot.**

PORT TALBOT, 21st May, 1813.

MY DEAR COLONEL,—

Yours of the 19th inst. I have just received. Lieut.-Colonel Bostwick had informed me of General Procter's success on his way down. I regret that the victory was not more complete. I did hope that the expedition would have finished the campaign for this year. Then we might have sent the regulars below again. I had not heard before this that Sir Roger retreated to Kingston. I was inclined to believe that he had only retreated to the river Don. I lament the death of poor Donald McLean, [Clerk of the House of Assembly, killed at York April 27th, 1813.] I think he was a good person. I fear many more of the good people of York are gone also, but I am happy to learn that the Provincial papers are not destroyed, as that excited considerable alarm in me. Our loss must have been great, but I hope the enemy will not be much benefited by it. We must have had considerable stores of provisions there, but I shall be content if Sir Roger had them all destroyed previous to his retreat. What a wanton, ferocious, savage proceeding that was, to burn the Government House at the Beach [Burlington], a house, they must have known, purely for the accommodation of travellers. I am glad to hear that Sir G[eorge] P[revost] is a little aroused for the security of this Province. If the arrival of reinforcements should be pretty prompt, and that account of the seamen arrived and preparations making at Kingston, we may still prevent them from destroying our settlements about Lake Ontario. Their thinking they have such a complete mastery of the lake may lull them into such a confidence of their superiority that I should be not at all surprised to hear that our vessels have lessened their flotilla. The inhabitants are now in the midst of their planting and it will be like drawing their eye teeth to call them out until they have done.

(From the Talbot Papers.)



(Buffalo Gazette, 25th May, 1813.)

On Friday evening last, (May 21,) Chauncey's fleet arrived at Four Mile Creek, with a respectable reinforcement under Brig.-Gen. Chandler. A strong force was left at Sackett's Harbor, at which place troops were daily arriving.

Since last paper a considerable number of troops have arrived in the neighborhood of Fort Niagara.

We understand that several companies of *volunteers* are about to be raised in this and the neighboring counties for one month's service. If ever there was a time for volunteers to enroll themselves for the purpose of taking part in active military operations **THAT TIME IS NOW.**

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

**Lieut.- Col. John Harvey to Colonel Baynes.**

FORT GEORGE, 25th May, 1813.

MY DEAR COLONEL,—

The whole of the enemy's fleet are here, (the *Madison* having arrived early this morning); we have been cannonaded since daylight. The enemy's fire has been wholly (and most successfully) directed hitherto against the fort, which is made a complete example of, every log barrack in it being burnt down. As soon as his purpose is effected against the buildings in the fort I have no doubt of his directing his fire against the town, which you know is completely at his mercy; that this will be followed by an attack in front and on both flanks either to-night or early to-morrow morning none of us can doubt. What their actual force is immediately opposite to us is of course difficult accurately to state, but in estimating it at 6000 I do not think I overstate it. This force with abundant means of transport, aided by a powerful flotilla, is not in our circumstances to be despised. We are accordingly preparing to give them as warm and hearty a reception as may be in our power, (and the men, I can assure you, are infuriated against them,) and, in the second, to concentrate our force, should that distressing alternative be forced upon us. General Vincent and Colonel Myers are writing to you. It might therefore have been unnecessary for me to have troubled you with a repetition of the details which they will give you. As, however, I find some of our letters fail when others reach you, I have scribbled a few lines to guard against a similar accident. After what I have said in the former part of this letter it is quite unnecessary for me to suggest the necessity of an immediate reinforcement.

(Canadian Archives, C. 678.)

**Colonel William Claus to Major Glegg.**

(25th May, 1813.)

The garrison on fire by hot shot. (In pencil in the handwriting of Colonel Claus, but undated and unaddressed.)

(On the other side, in ink.)

25th May, 7 o'clock.

DR. COLONEL,—

Whilst drinking a cup of coffee at Mr. Gordon's, James Bunting of Captain Servos's company came in with a message from you, enquiring for water buckets. Mr. Gordon says there are none in the ordnance department, nor does he know of there being any in the garrison.

You must make use of those now in use among the troops.

Yours,

J. B. GLEGG, B. M.,

(From MSS. in possession of Miss Claus, Niagara, Ont.)

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**General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, NIAGARA, May 26, 1813.

After order. Received at 5 p. m.

The army will embark at three o'clock to-morrow morning. The troops will be up at one and eat their breakfast at two, and be actually on board their respective boats ready to move at half after three. Each man will take his blanket and one day's rations ready cooked.

By command,

E. BEEBE,

Asst. Adj. Gen.

(From Documents and Facts relative to Military events during the late war, p. 13. By General John P. Boyd.)

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**Brigade Order.**

CAMP, FOUR MILE CREEK,  
NIAGARA, May 26, 1813, 6 p. m.

**BRIGADE ORDER.**

Conformably to the general orders of the 25th and 26th inst., the First Brigade will embark in boats at three o'clock to-morrow morning. The several regiments will hold themselves in readiness accordingly. The boats of the brigade will form in three lines, succeeding Lieut.-Colonel Scott's advance party. The 6th Regiment,

formed in column of battalion, right in front, will precede; the 15th and 16th Regiments will successively follow in the same order. Colonel McClure's volunteers will flank the right of the brigade and move accordingly. Four pieces of light artillery to move in the rear of the 15th Regiment and four in the rear of the 16th Regiment. The first four to form immediately on landing on the right of the 15th Regiment, and the other four on the right of the 16th Regiment. The troops will land in order and form immediately in order of battle, Colonel Miller of the 6th on the right, Major King of the 15th in the centre and Colonel Pearce of the 16th on the left; McClure's volunteers to flank the right.

The boat of the Brigadier-General will be designated by a green *bough*, the commanding officers of regiments by the regimental standards. To guard the stores and camp equipage of each regiment a commissioned officer and a sufficient number of non-effectives will be detached. The commanding officers of regiments will be responsible that their boats are in perfect readiness to receive the troops.

The troops which compose the first brigade have already *once* triumphed over the foe they have now again to encounter. Their country expects much from them and will not be disappointed. With their accustomed bravery they will plant the United States flag in Canada.

JOHN P. BOYD,

Brig. Gen., Com'd'g 1st Brigade.

(From Boyd's Documents and Facts, p. 13.)

**Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.**

(No. 63.)

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON,  
UPPER CANADA, 26th May, 1813.

MY LORD,—

I have the honor to report to Your Lordship the arrival at Quebec on the 15th inst. of six troops of the 19th Light Dragoons and the 2nd Battn. of the 41st Regt. Major-General Glasgow, whom I left in command of that fortress, informs me that, in pursuance of the instructions I had transmitted to him, he will lose no time in pressing forward that portion of the 41st Regt. considered most fit for active service, consisting of about four hundred men, and that the boys will be retained for garrison duty.

He also reports having made arrangements for sending on the dragoons. This intelligence of a reinforcement to the forces has not failed to cheer the army employed in maintaining in Upper

Canada a most unequal contest, and although the period of the arrival of this small portion of infantry in this Province must, when measured by our impatience, appear remote, still the knowledge of their approach will be attended by highly beneficial consequences to His Majesty's interests in the Canadas.

The growing discontent and undissembled dissatisfaction of the mass of the people of Upper Canada in consequence of the effects of the militia laws upon a population thinly scattered over an extensive range of country, whose zeal was exhausted and whose exertions had brought want and ruin to the doors of many, and had in various instances produced a considerable emigration of settlers to the United States, from whence most of them originally come, have compelled me to bring forward my best and reserved soldiers to enable me to support the positions we hold on the Niagara and Detroit frontiers. I have been also induced to adopt this measure from the further consideration that the militia had been considerably weakened by the frequent desertion of even the well disposed part of them to their farms for the purpose of getting seed into the ground before the short summer of this country had too far advanced.

It is an act of justice, and my duty to state to Your Lordship for the gracious consideration of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, that in the Niagara command Colonel Vincent has displayed superior talents and abilities and a determination worthy of a British soldier, and that in that of Detroit Colonel Procter has been so fortunate as to have had frequent opportunities of evincing sound military judgment and a happy decision in all the various difficulties attendant on his situation in a remote and occasionally inaccessible district of this Province. Both these officers being old Colonels are acting as Brigadiers-General until His Royal Highness's pleasure is known. The enemy, continuing to avail themselves of their naval ascendancy on Lake Ontario, left Sackett's Harbor on the 20th inst. and have appeared off Fort George with sixteen vessels laden with troops, which they disembarked on the following day in the rear of their fort at Niagara. Colonel Vincent being apprehensive of an immediate attack from a force in numbers vastly superior to his own, I have advised Commodore Sir James Yeo to sail with the vessels that are ready for service to reconnoitre the enemy's flotilla, in order that he may form an opinion upon the practicability of conveying on board of them to Fort George a reinforcement of about three hundred, being the whole disposable force I can command at present, and which is held in readiness to embark at a moment's notice. I propose accompanying it. As soon as this service is performed it is my intention to place the civil administration and

military command of Upper Canada in the hands of Major-General De Rottenburg, and Major-General Sir R. Sheaffe will return to Lower Canada, where he will remain, (for reasons which shall be hereafter detailed to Your Lordship,) if such should be the pleasure of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 121, p. 227.)

**Sir James Yeo to Hon. John Wilson Croker.**

His Majesty's Ship *Wolfe*, KINGSTON,  
UPPER CANADA, 26th May, 1813.

(No. 3.)

SIR,—I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that I arrived here on the 16th inst. with one hundred and fifty of the officers and seamen under my command: the remainder have also arrived here at different periods between that and the 24th.

The ships and vessels were in a very weak state, the *Royal George* had 18 32-pounder carronades and two long nine-pounder guns; the *Moir*, 18 18-pounder carronades; the *Beresford*, 10 12-pounder carronades and two long six-pounder guns; the *Wolfe* was launched but not decked, or rigged, nor any guns on board. She has since been furnished at different times with 20 guns and carronades of various calibres collected from the forts, and which have arrived from Quebec. The enemy have burnt, on their taking possession of York, a ship that was building there, intended to carry 30 guns, as was stated in my letter, No. 1, at Quebec, on 5th inst.

From the arrival of the establishment to the present date all hands have been very actively employed in fitting and preparing the squadron in the best possible manner the short time would allow in a state to put to sea or defend themselves in case of a surprise.

The enemy's squadron are very superior, both in number and the complete way they are equipped, their force, consisting of one ship of 20 32-pounder carronades and 6 long 18-pounder guns, a brig with 18 24-pounder and 16 smaller vessels each carrying a long 32-pounder gun, some four and others six carronades, besides they have also a ship of thirty and a brig of eighteen guns nearly ready for launching at Sackett's Harbour.

They having the above stated advantage on the lake at present and the certainty of their shortly being reinforced by those building, it will appear evident to their Lordships that the enemy, (now possessing a force which are equal if not superior,) if not checked

will soon get too formidable for an attack to be made on them that might prove advantageous. I am therefore about to proceed to sea to meet them, as the possession of Upper Canada must depend on whoever can maintain the naval superiority on Lake Ontario.

I beg leave to draw their Lordships' attention to the fact that even in the event of my being successful the superiority cannot long be maintained without an immediate reinforcement of seamen, as the enemy, from their proximity to New York, can obtain any supply of men or stores at a few hours notice.

I have further to state to their Lordships that I found on my arrival Messrs. Barclay, Pring and Finnis, commanders, and four lieutenants, which had been sent from Halifax by Sir John B. Warren, Bart.

(Admiralty Papers, Canadian Archives, M. 389-6, p. 16.)

### Sir John Johnson to Colonel William Claus.

MONTREAL, 26th May, 1813.

SIR,—I have received your letters of the 16th April by Lieutenant Dudley, and of 14th May by express, and was in hopes to have had another by the last express, with General Procter's account of General Clay's defeat and death and his return to Detroit, which I am sorry for, as it will give the Americans time to receive reinforcements, strengthen their position, or to retire; the latter, I rather think, will be the case. I hope you may be able to hold out till the reinforcements on their way and the fleet goes to your aid, which I have no doubt will clear the lake, even, I hope, if their new ship gets out in time. The second battalion of the 41st are here; I suppose on their way up with many others. I am sending off all the Indians I can spare, with six officers, to Sir George, so that I think he will have about three hundred either to attack or defend; the latter I have no idea of, as I suppose all their force are bending your way. The goods I sent in twenty-one or two trains for you were stopped [at] Prescott on account of the roads breaking up, and I have not heard that they have been forwarded since, though I gave Sir George an account of them when going up. We have nothing left and none yet arrived from England, though many ships have arrived since the transports. I hope Mr. Rodgers may not fall in with them. I am surprised we have not heard of Dickson's arrival with the Western Indians. I hope he will not fail or be too late to afford you aid, for I think the campaign will not last long after our fleet and forces get in motion; having failed in all their principal objects and being closely pressed on the seashore, I see

nothing left for them but to sue for the best terms they can get, and if the Indians stick together and do not forsake us they may obtain their end in fixing their own boundaries. You have not said whether you have recommended young Anderson to be put on the footing of our lieutenants and interpreters, which I think I wrote you to do. I think Peter John, Captain John's son, who writes and speaks English very well, should, from his father's services as well as from his own abilities, be appointed an interpreter; one of Brant's sons also. If not too much given to liquor, their fathers' services merit this attention to them, as well as policy. I therefore wish they could be put on the footing of our lieutenants and interpreters. I have mentioned it to Ferguson and suggested the idea of Peter John's memorializing the President now that the Commander of the Forces is on the spot.

(Canadian Archives, Claus Papers.)

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**Major J. B. Glegg to Colonel William Claus.**

12 o'clock, (27th May, 1813 ?)

DR. COL.—

The General desires you will immediately evacuate the Fort and join him on the Queenston road.

J. B. GLEGG.

To Col Claus, com'd'g Fort George.

(From MSS. in possession of Miss Claus, Niagara, Ont.)

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**Major-General Dearborn to the Secretary of War.**

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE,  
UPPER CANADA, May 27, 1813.

SIR,—The light troops under the command of Colonel Scott and Major Forsyth landed this morning at nine o'clock. Major-General Lewis's division, with Colonel Porter's command of light artillery, supported them. General Boyd's brigade landed immediately after the light troops, and Generals Winder and Chandler followed in quick succession. The landing was obstinately disputed by the British forces, but the coolness and intrepidity of our troops soon compelled them to give ground. General Chandler with the reserve, (composed of his brigade and Colonel Macomb's artillery,) covered the whole. Commodore Chauncey had made the most judicious arrangements for silencing the enemy's batteries near the

point of landing. The army is under the greatest obligations to that naval commander for his co-operation in all its important movements, and especially in its operations this day. Our batteries succeeded in rendering Fort George untenable, and when the enemy had been beaten from his positions and found it necessary to re-enter it, after firing a few guns and setting fire to the magazines which soon exploded, he moved off rapidly by different routes. Our light troops pursued them several miles. The troops having been under arms from one o'clock in the morning were too much exhausted for any further pursuit. We were now in possession of Fort George and its immediate dependencies; to-morrow we shall proceed further on. The behavior of our troops, both officers and men, entitles them to the highest praise, and the difference in our loss with that of the enemy, when we consider the advantages his positions afforded him, is astonishing. We had 17 killed and 45 wounded. The enemy had 60 killed and 160 wounded of the regular troops. We have taken 100 prisoners exclusive of the wounded. Colonel Myers of the 49th was wounded and taken prisoner. Of ours only one commissioned officer was killed—Lieutenant Hobart of the light artillery. Enclosed is the report of Major-General Lewis.

(From the Historical Register of the United States, 1814, Vol. II., pp. 227-8.)

### **Return of the loss of the Army of the United States in the Action of the 27th May, 1813.**

The light troops under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Scott—Captain Roach of 23d Infantry wounded; Lieutenant Swearingen, do.; 23 non-commissioned officers and privates killed; 64 do., wounded. Total 89.

General Lewis's division—First or Boyd's brigade.

Light Artillery—Lieutenant H. A. Hobart killed; rank and file, 1 wounded.

Sixth Regiment of Infantry—Capt. Arrowsmith wounded; rank and file, 6 killed, 16 wounded.

Fifteenth Regiment of Infantry—Major King wounded; rank and file, 1 killed, 6 wounded.

Sixteenth Regiment of Infantry—Captain Steel wounded; rank and file, 8 killed, 9 wounded.

New York Volunteers—Rank and file, 4 wounded.

Second or Winder's Brigade—Rank and file, 6 wounded.

Third or Chandler's Brigade—None. Of the wounded, but 61 have been sent to the hospital. The wounds of the others are very slight.



**Return of the loss of the Enemy in Killed, Wounded and Taken  
in the Action of the 27th May, 1813.**

Killed—108.

Prisoners—Wounded, 1 colonel, 3 subalterns, 7 sergeants and 152 rank and file—163. Not wounded, 1 captain, 1 subaltern, 1 surgeon, 8 sergeants and 102 rank and file—115.

Total loss of the enemy, 386 ; militia paroled, 507.

E. BEEBE, Asst. Adj.-General.

(From the Historical Register of the United States, 1814, Vol. II., pp. 229-30.)

**New York Evening Post, 13th August, 1813.**

Extract of a letter from an officer in the army to the Editors of the *United States Gazette* :—

FORT GEORGE, July 26, 1813.

The following is a correct list of the men's names in the 1st Brigade killed at the battles of York and Fort George, on the 27th of April and 27th of May, 1813, as taken from the muster rolls, June 30, 1813 :

|                                                             |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| In the 6th Regiment at York, (names given,) total . . . . . | 23 |
| At Fort George, total . . . . .                             | 9  |

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Aggregate . . . . . | 32 |
|---------------------|----|

|                                                              |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| In the 15th Regiment at York, (names given,) total . . . . . | 32 |
| At Fort George, total . . . . .                              | 2  |

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Aggregate . . . . . | 34 |
|---------------------|----|

|                                                              |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| In the 16th Regiment at York, (names given,) total . . . . . | 10 |
| At Fort George, total . . . . .                              | 8  |

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Aggregate . . . . . | 18 |
|---------------------|----|

|                                                                   |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| In Major Forsyth's rifles at York, (names given,) total . . . . . | 14 |
| At Fort George, total . . . . .                                   | 2  |

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Aggregate . . . . . | 16 |
|---------------------|----|

In a detachment of the 2d Artillery, acting as light infantry, at Fort George, not being with the brigade at York :

In Captain Thomas Biddle's company, (names given,) total 7.

In Captain Hindman's company, total 1.

In Captain William Nichol's company, total 4. Aggregate, 13.

In a detachment of light dragoons, acting as light infantry, commanded by Lieut. Roane (?), total 8.

It appears by the above that there were killed, exclusive of officers :

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| At York.....        | 79  |
| At Fort George..... | 42  |
| Total.....          | 121 |

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**The Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

United States Ship *Madison*,  
 NIAGARA RIVER, 27th May, 1813.

SIR,—I am happy to have it in my power to say that the American flag is flying upon Fort George. We were in quiet possession of all the forts at 12 o'clock.

(From the Historical Register of the United States, 1814, Vol. II., p. 224.)

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**Major D. Noon to Governor Tompkins.**

FORT GEORGE, 27th May, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—

At four o'clock this morning our troops embarked on board the boats and fleet at Four Mile Creek, below Fort Niagara, and at nine the fleet commenced their fire on the enemy's batteries, and about half an hour after our troops commenced their landing on the British shore, a little above the light house, with little loss on our side. Being with the first squad of boats that landed I had a good opportunity of viewing the bravery of the troops. Never was there men behaved better. The fire from the enemy was very constant at the boats while landing. The enemy retreated towards Fort Erie; others say to the head of the lake on their way to Kingston. One half of our troops leave here to-morrow in pursuit of them. The fleet lies at present in the river opposite Fort George, and will remain until we have possession of this part of the Upper Province. Our loss of killed is about 18 men; wounded about 45 and one captain killed. The loss of the enemy is about 102 killed and about 150 wounded. Commodore Chauncey has allowed me to go with the party that goes to-morrow in pursuit of the enemy, and bring him back the result. We have been informed that the force of the enemy was about 1200 regulars and about 400 militia and Indians.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 402-3, New York State Library.)

**Major-General Dearborn to Governor Tompkins.**

NIAGARA, FORT GEORGE, UPPER CANADA,  
May 27th, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—

We took possession of Fort George and its immediate dependencies this day. Our loss does not exceed thirty killed and forty-five wounded. We have ascertained that the enemy had upwards of seventy killed and above 150 wounded. We made upwards of 100 prisoners. We had only one officer killed, Lieut. Hobart, my grandson. We have much more to do. Our troops behaved like brave old soldiers.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 401-2, New York State Library.)

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**Brigadier-General Vincent to Sir George Prevost.**

FORTY MILE CREEK, May 28, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that yesterday morning about daybreak the enemy again opened his batteries upon Fort George. The fire not being immediately returned, it ceased for some time. About 4 o'clock a. m. a combination of circumstances led to a belief that an invasion was meditated. The morning being exceedingly hazy neither his means nor his intention could be ascertained until the mist, clearing away at intervals, the enemy's fleet, consisting of 14 or 15 vessels, was discovered under way standing towards the lighthouse in an extended line of more than two miles, covering from 90 to 100 large boats and scows, each containing an average of 50 or 60 men. Though at this time no doubt could be entertained of the enemy's intention his points of attack could only be conjectured. Having again commenced a heavy fire from his fort, line of batteries and shipping, it became necessary to withdraw all the guards and piquets stationed along the coast between the fort and the lighthouse, and a landing was effected at the Two Mile Creek, about half a mile below the latter place. The party of troops and Indians stationed at this point, after opposing the enemy and annoying him as long as possible, were obliged to fall back, and the fire from the shipping so completely enfiladed and scoured the plains that it became impossible to approach the beach. As the day dawned the enemy's plan was clearly developed, and every effort to oppose his landing having failed I lost not a moment in concentrating my force and taking up a position between the town, Fort George and the enemy, there awaiting his approach. This movement was admirably covered by the Glengarry Light Infantry, joined by a detachment of the Royal

Newfoundland Regiment and militia, which commenced skirmishing with the enemy's riflemen, who were advancing through the brush-wood. The enemy having perfect command of the beach, quickly landed from 3 to 4,000 men with several pieces of artillery, and this force was instantly seen advancing in three solid columns along the lake bank, his right covered by a large body of riflemen and his left and front by the fire of the shipping and batteries in their fort. As our light troops fell back upon the main body, which was moved forwards to their support, they were gallantly sustained by the 8th (King's) Regiment, commanded by Major Ogilvie, the whole being under the immediate direction of Colonel Myers, Acting Quartermaster-General, who had charge of the right wing. In the execution of this important duty, gallantry, zeal and decision were eminently conspicuous, and, I regret to report, that I was deprived of the services of Colonel Myers, who, having received three wounds, was obliged to quit the field. Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey, the Deputy Adjutant General, whose activity and gallantry had been displayed the whole morning, succeeded Colonel Myers and brought up the right division, consisting of the 49th Regiment and some militia.

The light artillery under Major Holcroft were already in position, awaiting the enemy's advance on the plain. At this moment the very inferior force under my command had experienced a severe loss in officers and men, yet nothing could exceed the ardor and gallantry of the troops, who showed the most marked devotion in the service of their King and country, and appeared regardless of the consequence of the unequal contest. Being on the spot and seeing that the force under my command was opposed with ten-fold numbers, who were rapidly advancing under cover of their shipping and batteries, from which our positions were immediately seen and exposed to a tremendous fire of shot and shells, I decided on retiring my little force to a position which I hoped would be less assailable by the heavy ordnance of the enemy and from which a retreat would be left open in the event of that measure becoming necessary. Here, after awaiting the approach of the enemy for about an hour, I received authentic information that his force, consisting of from 4 to 5,000 men, had re-formed its columns and was making an effort to turn my right flank. At this critical juncture not a moment was to be lost, and, sensible that every effort had been made by the officers and men under my command to maintain the post of Fort George, I could not consider myself as justified in continuing so unequal a contest, which promised no advantage to the interests of His Majesty's service. Having given orders for the fort to be evacuated, the guns to be spiked and the ammunition

destroyed, the troops under my command were put in motion and marched across the country in a line parallel to the Niagara river, towards the position near the Beaver Dams beyond Queenston mountain, at which place I had the honor of reporting to Your Excellency that a depot of provisions and ammunition had been formed some time since. The rear guard of the army reached that position during the night, and we were soon afterwards joined by Lieutenant-Colonel Bisshopp with all the detachments from Chippawa to Fort Erie. The light and one battalion company of the 8th, (King's,) joined us about the same time as did Captain Barclay with a detachment of the Royal Navy.

Having assembled my whole force the following morning, which did not exceed 1,600 men, I continued my march towards the head of the lake, where it is my intention to take up a position, and shall endeavor to maintain it until I may be honored with Your Excellency's instructions, which I feel most anxious to receive. I beg leave to suggest the great importance that exists for a communication being opened with me through the medium of the fleet. The anchorage under Mrs. Brandt's house is perfectly good and very safe. I believe Your Excellency need not be informed that in the event of it becoming necessary that I should fall back upon York, the assistance of shipping would be requisite for the transport of my artillery. I cannot conclude this long communication without expressing a well-merited tribute of approbation to the gallantry and assiduity of every officer of the staff, and indeed of every individual composing my little army. Every one most zealously discharged the duties of his respective station. The struggle on the 27th continued from three to four hours, and, I lament to add, it was attended with very severe loss.

I have the honor to enclose a list of the killed, wounded and missing, with as much accuracy as the nature of existing circumstances will admit. Many of the missing I hope will be found to be only stragglers, and will soon rejoin their corps. I shall reach the head of the lake to-morrow evening. Hitherto the enemy has not attempted to interrupt my movements. Information reached me this morning through an authentic channel that he has pushed on 3,000 infantry and a considerable body of cavalry towards Queenston. His whole force is stated to amount to nearly 10,000 men, [and I cannot conceal from Your Excellency my conviction that unless some disaster attends their progress that force will daily increase. My sentiments respecting the militia are already known, and it will not be supposed that their attachment to our cause can be very steady under the peculiar complexion of the present times.]\*

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\*Omitted in the London Gazette.

P. S.—I send this despatch by Mr. Matheson, who acted as a volunteer on the 27th, and I am happy to inform Your Excellency that his conduct was very honorable to his character and merits my marked approbation. Ammunition will be wanting by the first vessel. Captain Milnes has been kind enough to remain with me until my next despatch.

(Canadian Archives, C. 678.

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**Return of Killed, Wounded and Missing of His Majesty's Troops in Action with the Enemy at Fort George, May the 27th, 1813.**

General Staff—1 wounded.

Royal Artillery—1 rank and file killed; 1 rank and file wounded.

8th or King's Regiment—1 lieutenant killed; 1 major, 3 lieutenants, 1 ensign wounded; 11 sergeants, 4 drummers, 181 rank and file missing.

41st Regiment—3 rank and file wounded and missing.

49th Regiment—2 rank and file killed; 2 rank and file wounded; 4 drummers, 28 rank and file wounded and missing.

Left in hospitals and wounded on former occasions—16 rank and file, not included.

Glengarry Regiment—1 captain, 1 ensign, 1 sergeant, 24 rank and file killed; 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 1 ensign, 3 sergeants, 20 rank and file wounded; 1 lieutenant, 2 sergeants, 23 rank and file wounded and missing.

Royal Newfoundland Regiment—21 rank and file killed; 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 1 sergeant, 6 rank and file wounded; 5 rank and file wounded and missing.

Total—1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 1 ensign, 1 sergeant, 48 rank and file killed; 1 general staff, 1 major, 2 captains, 5 lieutenants, 2 ensigns, 4 sergeants, 29 rank and file wounded; 1 lieutenant, 13 sergeants, 8 drummers, 240 rank and file wounded and missing.

Names of officers killed and wounded:

Killed—8th or King's Regiment—Lieutenant James Drummie. Glengarry Regiment—Captain Liddle, Ensign McLean.

Wounded—Colonel Myers, Acting Quartermaster-General, severely, not dangerously.

8th Regiment—Major Edward Cotton, Lieutenant J. W. Lloyd severely and prisoner; Lieutenants Mortimer, McMahon and Horace Noel; Ensign Richard Nicholson, severely and prisoner.

Glengarry Regiment—Captain Roxborough, Lieutenant Kerr, Ensign Kerr.

Royal Newfoundland Regiment—Captain Winter, Lieutenant Stewart.

EDWARD BAYNES,  
Adjutant-General, North America.

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**Major-General Lewis to Major-General Dearborn.**

On the field, 1 o'clock, 27th May, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—

Fort George and its dependencies are ours. The enemy, beaten at all points, has blown up his magazines and retired. It is impossible at this moment to say anything of individual gallantry—there was no man who did not perform his duty in a manner which did honor to himself and his country. Scott's and Forsyth's commands, supported by Boyd's and Winder's brigades, sustained the brunt of the action. Our loss is trifling, perhaps not more than 20 killed and twice that number wounded. The enemy has left in the hospital 124, and I sent several on board the fleet. We have also made about 100 prisoners of the regular forces. When it is considered that the enemy had several fires at us while in our boats the difference between our loss and his is very striking.

(From the Historical Register of the United States, 1814, Vol. II., p. 228.)

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

United States Ship *Madison*,  
NIAGARA RIVER, 28th May, 1813.

SIR,—Agreeably to arrangements which I have already had the honor of detailing to you, I left Sackett's Harbor with this ship on the 22d instant, with about 350 of Colonel McComb's regiment on board. The wind being light from the westward, I did not arrive in the vicinity of Niagara before the 25th. The other parts of the squadron had arrived several days before and landed their troops. The *Fair American* and *Pert* I had ordered to Sackett's Harbor for the purpose of watching the enemy's movements at Kingston. I immediately had an interview with General Dearborn for the purpose of making arrangements to attack the enemy as soon as possible, and it was agreed between him and myself to make the attack as soon as the weather was such as to allow the vessels and boats to approach the shore with safety.

On the 26th I reconnoitred the position for landing the troops, and at night sounded the shore and placed buoys to mark out the stations for the small vessels. It was agreed between the General and myself to make the attack next morning, (as the weather had moderated and had every appearance of being favorable.) I took on board of the *Madison*, *Oneida* and *Lady of the Lake* all the heavy artillery and as many troops as could be stowed. The remainder were to embark in boats and to follow the fleet—at three yesterday morning the signal was made for the fleet to weigh and the troops were all embarked on board the boats before four, and soon after Generals Dearborn and Lewis came on board this ship with their suites. It being, however, nearly calm the schooners were obliged to sweep into their positions. Mr. Trant in the *Julia* and Mr. Mix in the *Growler* I directed to take a position in the mouth of the river, and to silence a battery near the lighthouse, which from its position commanded the shore where our troops were to land. Mr. Stevens in the *Ontario* was directed to take a position to the north of the lighthouse, so near in shore as to enfilade the battery and cross the fire of the *Julia* and *Growler*. Lieutenant Brown in the *Governor Tompkins*, I directed to take a position near the Two Mile Creek, where the enemy had a battery with a heavy gun. Lieutenant Pettigrew in the *Conquest* was directed to anchor to the S. E. of the same battery, so near in as to open on it in the rear and cross the fire of the *Governor Tompkins*. Lieutenant Macpherson in the *Hamilton*, Lieutenant Smith in the *Asp* and Mr. Osgood in the *Scourge* were directed to anchor close to the shore and cover the landing of the troops, and to scour the woods and plain wherever the enemy made his appearance.

All these orders were most promptly and gallantly executed. All the vessels anchored within musket shot of the shore, and in ten minutes after they opened upon the batteries they were completely silenced and abandoned. Our troops then advanced in three brigades, the advance led by Colonel Scott, and landed near the fort, which had been silenced by Lieutenant Brown. The enemy, who had been concealed in a ravine, now advanced in great force to the edge of the bank to charge our troops. The schooners opened so well directed and tremendous a fire of grape and canister that the enemy soon retreated from the bank. Our troops formed as soon as they landed, and immediately ascended the bank and charged and routed the enemy in every direction, the schooners keeping up a constant, well directed fire upon him in his retreat towards the town. Owing to the wind having sprung up very fresh from the eastward, which caused a heavy sea directly on shore, I was not able to get the boats off to land the troops from the *Madison* and



*Oneida* before the first and second brigades had advanced. Captain Smith with the marines landed with Colonel McComb's regiment, and I had prepared 400 seamen which I intended to land with myself if the enemy had made a stand, but our troops pursued him so rapidly into the town and Fort George that I found there was no necessity for more force. Moreover the wind had increased so much and hove such a sea on shore that the situation of the fleet had become dangerous and critical. I therefore made the signal for the fleet to weigh and ordered them into the river, where they anchored immediately after the enemy had abandoned Fort George. The town and forts were in quiet possession of our troops at 12 o'clock, and the enemy retreated in a direction towards Queenston.

Where all behaved so well it is difficult to select any one for commendation, yet in doing justice to Lieutenant Macpherson I do not detract from the merits of others. He was very fortunate in placing himself in a situation where he rendered very important service in covering the troops so completely that their loss was trifling.

Captain Perry joined me from Erie on the evening of the 25th, and very gallantly volunteered his services, and I have very much pleasure in acknowledging the great assistance which I received from him in arranging and superintending the debarkation of the troops. He was present at every point where he could be useful, under showers of musketry, but fortunately escaped unhurt. We lost but one killed and two wounded, and no injury done to the vessels.

(From the Historical Register of the United States, 1814, Vol. II., pp. 224-6.)

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### **Anne Powell to Justice W. D. Powell.**

YORK, May 29, 1813.

(Extract.)

Captain R. was the bearer of my letter and the dreadful tidings that Fort George and the sacred remains it covered were in the hands of our implacable enemy. This intelligence almost annihilated hope, but subsequent details led us to suppose that the Province was not irrecoverably lost. Our retreating force had made a stand at Queenston and St. Davids. Jacob, (Col. Glegg's servant,) came in yesterday. He left all at those places, John Powell well. Capt. Barclay and the reinforcement within 16 miles of the forces. Col. Bisshopp had joined. An attack was expected in the forenoon of yesterday. Our anxiety respecting the fleet was, as far as related to their advancing to our relief, relieved by the intelligence Coffin

gave us last evening. He had no doubt but they were at Niagara before any endeavor was made by us to drive the enemy from our once peaceful shores. Every hour increases our interest in the event of the contest, and our impatience for information. It is thought what was supposed an explosion early in the morning of yesterday was the report of the 68-pound carronade on board our fleet. It is now calm as possible. The tremendous rain in the night would deluge our poor fellows.

(From the Powell Papers, Toronto Public Library.)

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**Captain Fowler, D. A. Q. M. G., to Colonel Baynes.**

FORTY MILE CREEK, 29th May, 1813.

SIR,—In consequence of the grievous and lamentable circumstances of the gallant Colonel Myers being wounded and a prisoner, it falls on me to be honored by detailing to you the mortifying events of the 27th at Fort George. The various duties of the department under the present circumstances will prevent me from entering very fully into the business. At some future opportunity I shall be more particular. Previous to this disastrous day, Colonel Myers did not, I know, omit reporting our state and the demonstrations of the enemy for a serious attack. It was discovered before the break of day on the morning of the 27th that we were not to be disappointed, and on our part every one seemed confident of success and anxious for the moment of trial. The morning was calm and very foggy, but, clearing at intervals, brought to our view the enemy's fleet under way and standing from his Four Mile Creek and from his fort encircling our left. The intervals between his vessels were occupied by boats, a great number of them armed. The scows in general were fastened to their vessels. The boats amounted to 134 at least, with sixteen vessels. A slight breeze from the south-east favored his views, and not only enabled him to continue the line from his fort to our Two Mile Creek but from its moderation he was enabled to add guns to the broadsides of his vessels next our shore from their opposite sides. This was plainly perceived, and thus a great extent of ground was plainly brought under the fire of an amazing quantity of ordnance, a great part of which was of large calibre. Their arrangement for the attack was gradual and cautious. About six it was evident their grand effort was to be made on our left at the Two Mile Creek, the *Madison* having occupied a situation near it. On the enemy's fire opening from the river, fort and shipping, the ravines were the only places where we could form. Under cover of his vessels at the Two Mile

Creek, the enemy commenced his landing in very great force. Under his galling fire the Glengarry, consisting of 90 men, the Royal Newfoundland 40 men, the Black Corps 27 men, a detachment of militia 100 men, and the 8th Regiment 310, advanced to repel the foe, notwithstanding the showers of grape and other shot from his vessels brought to this point, and little more than 300 yards from the bankside. The contest was severe and it was here in the onset Colonel Myers received his wounds and was obliged to be borne from the field. The officers and men of the above mentioned corps fast fell and the contest soon became unequal, more from the destructive fire from his craft than from his troops. Confident I am that any number of his troops would have been successfully repelled unaided by such an enormous aid of ordnance. Our brave men, compelled to retire, rallied and again charged the enemy at the water's edge, yet, under the destructive fire from his ships, which it was impossible to evade, the enemy was enabled to continue his disembarkation although very severely handled in his boats, and our brave troops, after returning in the most zealous manner twice to the charge was reluctantly necessitated to retire to a ravine a few yards to their rear, where they again formed, but to advance would have been unavailing, and they fell back about 200 yards further to their rear. Sheltered as above when this took place, the 49th Regiment from the centre here joined, and, though his numbers were fast augmenting, our troops advanced to charge him, but the tremendous fire from their fort and shipping rendered it impossible. Every one was disinclined to retire, and he was on the point of turning our right, and our brave troops advanced to dispute the ground, but here found themselves still more exposed to the enemy's galling fire being quite open to his fort. A retreat was most unwillingly resorted to and effected before a force so infinitely superior in numbers, and he had by this time succeeded in landing a number of his field artillery, which were brought against us under these circumstances, and the picketing of the fort much destroyed it became necessary to preserve our small force by commencing a deliberate retreat about 10 o'clock a. m., forming again in the rear of the Council House in hope he would attack us in front unfriended by anything but his superior numbers. In this we were mistaken, and after waiting for him some time found that he dare not appear on this plain, but that his riflemen were entering the bush by our left flank to the rear. We now found it necessary to call in our men allotted to the protection of the fort, and commenced our march to Queenston, first blowing up the ammunition and burning the government stores of provision. Our retreat was conducted with order, and the enemy, with his overwhelming

force, was compelled to respect us. In the course of the night we continued our route to the Beaver Dams and arrived at 40 Mile Creek yesterday.

The force the enemy landed, both from his own account and observation, amounted to about 8,000 men. At this moment I am not able to inform you correctly of our actual loss, but I know you will receive it from General Vincent.

P. S.—Not having time to address you officially myself I have requested Captain Fowler to allow me to add a postscript to his report which contains a most perfect account of the operations of the 27th.

An officer of militia, resident at Fort George and a prisoner on his parole, has just arrived from that place. His information confirms our calculation of the enemy's strength disembarked on the 27th. He says that they did not land less than 5,000 in the first instance and 3,000 more in the course of that day. Of these 4,000 had been detached to occupy Queenston, Chippawa and Fort Erie. They also talk of following us in force.

J. HARVEY.

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**Captain William Holcroft, R. A., to Major-General De Rottenburg.**

ST. DAVIDS, 15th August, 1813.

SIR,—Agreeably to your desire I have drawn up a statement of the events of the 25th May last, as far as in my recollection.

Every movement of the enemy indicating an attack on the night of the 24th of May, the troops were all at their usual stations under arms, and boats were heard during the night launching about four miles on our right from the fort opposite a station where Lieut. Armstrong and one 6-pounder were posted, under orders of Lieut.-Colonel Harvey, (Deputy-Adjutant General,) who opened upon them from that gun and an iron 9-pounder at Brown's Point. The enemy partly succeeded and launched ten boats and returned our fire from two 6-pounders, and upon day breaking these boats were scattered with a few men in them on their way down the river, and on passing our fort were fired upon, which brought a return from the enemy's fort and all his adjacent batteries, with 16 guns, chiefly of large calibre, and three mortars, and which from their situation so flanked Fort George, and the shot being all heated and the fire so successful that the buildings, being all wooden, were totally consumed.

In the disposition of our troops in case of invasion, I had stationed Lieut. Charlton in the fort, unless the enemy should actually

land on our right, in which case he was to join that division with a 6-pounder, but as Lieut. Armstrong had been sent to the right to fire at the enemy's boats in launching, I presumed Lieut. Charlton would have remained in the fort, but orders had been sent for the disposable force from the fort with one 6-pounder and Lieutenant Charlton to take post in the rear to form the reserve. I was stationed on the left with the 5½ inch howitzer and one 6-pdr., under the orders of Colonel Myers, (Deputy-Quartermaster-General,) where the main attack was expected, the enemy's fleet being ready to co-operate in their landing. From the left we could observe one building taking fire. I therefore obtained leave from Colonel Myers and galloped to the fort, where I arrived to witness the destruction of two sheds in which were many valuable stores. The carriage of the 24-pounder at the flag staff had been struck in two places by the enemy's enfilade fire from both his flanks, and from the approximation of the flames that gun could not be used. The large 12-pounder received an 18-pound shot through both cheeks of the carriage, and which broke the right wheel and carried away the tube box which was buckled on the gunner serving as No. 9. The firing then remained with one 24-pounder in the cavalier bastion and a 12-pounder in the north-west bastion, but from the excessive heavy firing from the enemy's fort and six batteries, the fort in flames and shells bursting amongst us in every direction, and the very few artillery men then left and no object in such a situation to be obtained I suspended the fire, and the enemy, finding all the buildings in the fort consumed ceased his fire about 2 o'clock P. M., when I left it, with Colonel Claus, in charge of Major Williams' 49th Regiment.

The troops remained under arms all night, giving a picquet in the fort and its garrison about half a mile in its rear. The right and left divisions remained as usual upon the flanks. The bolts of the 24-pounder gun carriage at the light house battery were drawn by the recoil of the gun, owing to its traversing platform not being sufficiently long, and that gun could not be repaired from the circumstance of all the blocks and tackle, &c., being consumed in the fort, and no means left for dismounting and remounting the gun.

To all appearance the enemy's designs of landing on our right or of bringing his numerous boats by water from the Five Mile Meadows to his left were frustrated.

By orders from Colonel Myers the battery in front of the town of Niagara had not been used for fear of drawing their fire upon it, which would have consumed the town and left no shelter for the

troops, who had several barracks in it, and would have driven the inhabitants and their families to the woods.

The 24-pounder at the lighthouse was well served until the accident already mentioned took place. The 18-pounder at the Cherry Tree near the fort was also well served, and such only was the means of defence against nearly three times the enemy's artillery, which was judiciously posted and flanked every fire brought against it.

Probably I may have omitted many circumstances, but having lost all my papers I have merely stated what comes to my memory at this moment.

(Canadian Archives, C. 679.)

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### Notes by Captain W. H. Merritt.

On the morning of the 27th May Col. Harvey and myself, after finishing a nocturnal ride, was near the lighthouse where General Vincent and staff were assembled. I discovered the enemy's fleet nearing in under easy sail. Directly after, we discovered their boats advancing in three brigades under cover of the shipping. There was a thick fog all the morning. General Vincent thought they would probably land a part of their force up the river and make a joint attack on the fort, consequently a very small proportion of the right division were brought down. I rode from the lighthouse to Brown's Point four times from the appearance of the armament till they landed, to deliver different orders to Major Manners. I fairly knocked up three horses. At 9 o'clock they landed at Crookston. [They] were met by the advance of Col. Myers' division in the most gallant manner. Mr. Adams was dangerously wounded; report mentioned his being killed. We were all placed in too awkward a position to deliberate much, as the fort and shipping kept up a most galling cross-fire on us the whole morning. Still I never was more hurt than in hearing of his death, knowing what a large and affectionate family he had; I could not have felt more hurt on hearing of the death of my own father. They were obliged to retreat with loss on the main body, who were drawn up on the left of Gordon's House. The Americans advanced. Our troops, after marching, countermarching, taking positions and abandoning them, advancing and retreating without any person knowing the design, at last retreated and took up a position at Butler's Barracks. I was sent from this to order on the l[igh]t company of the King's who, we understood, was at the Eight Mile Creek. I passed through by old Mr. Butler's, Ball's and Servos's. At those places the ladies

and non-combatants of the town had retired, likewise all the wounded that could get away. It was really distressing to hear the cries of the women. I was stopped every few yards to satisfy their enquiries as to the safety of some husband, father, brother or son. The women had collected in groups in every public place through the country. In passing Shipman's I quieted those fears I had the greatest regard for. I did not meet the boats till I arrived at the 20 Mile Pond. Altho' I had to answer many questions to the different people who stopped me I was only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours from Fort George. We proceeded by land to Shipman's, where I received a message to conduct the party to Decoo's, to which place our army had retreated. Directly after my leaving them the Americans advanced. Gen. Vincent, knowing Fort George not to be tenable and his force too small to risque an action, retired by way of Queenston. Gordon was in the fort; had merely time to get out when the Americans entered it. Cornet McKenney set fire to the stores, &c., though [he] did not succeed in burning them. Colonel Bishopp was ordered to join us at DeCoo's with all the men of the frontier, after destroying the stores, &c. Next morning [we] were joined by all the militia of the country, who expected, now our force was concentrated, we would give them battle and prevent their penetrating in the country. However, to our great surprise and annoyance, an order was issued for all the waggons to be impressed and the army to retreat to the Forty. As many of the militia as chose to follow might [do so,] the rest were at liberty to return to their respective families. I strongly suspected from the indifferent manner the militia were treated the upper part of the Province was to be abandoned, as did all the militia, consequently numbers went home. A great part went on as far as the Forty, trusting a stand would be made there. I was in a sad dilemma. The thought of abandoning the country and leaving everything that was near and dear to me was distressing, still more so the unhappy situation of my family, who were left totally unprotected. My father, knowing the insults he would be subject to by staying, was determined to follow the army. For me there was no alternative or I certainly would have remained behind. I went home in the afternoon to get the remainder of my kit. Most of it had been taken at Fort George. A sad and distressing scene I witnessed on my arrival. Mrs. Adams and family [had] heard the report of his being killed [and] were in despair. Every other family in parting with their relatives gave them up for lost. This neighborhood retreated with the army almost to a man. In the evening I followed, overtook the General at the 40 Mile Creek, where I learnt we were to retreat to Burlington. The militia was given no encouragement



to follow the army whatever; very few but what went back from this, as they were confident the army would not stop till we arrived at Kingston.

(From the Merritt MSS.)

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**Joseph Parrish to Governor Tompkins.**

CANANDAIGUA, May 28, 1813.

SIR,—I held a council last week with the chiefs of the Six Nations at Buffalo, where I explained the enclosed copy of a speech from the President of the United States. After a due deliberation they informed me that they were determined to adhere to the United States, and remain neutral while the British remain on the other side of the Niagara river. But in case they and the Indians should cross then they would be at liberty to take up the hatchet with our warriors in the defence of our common country.

The chiefs request me to inform Your Excellency of the same.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., 405-6, New York State Library.)

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**Major D. Noon to Governor Tompkins.**

QUEENSTON HEIGHTS, 28th May, 1813.

DEAR SIR,

I arrived here this day from on board the ship *Madison* and with a determination to turn in the ranks should the enemy make their appearance at this place, but to our astonishment the enemy evacuated this place and also Fort Erie, taking with them all the stores they could and destroying the remainder. We are informed that they are to be joined by Colonel Procter from Malden and make a stand at the head of the lake and make their way to Kingston and attack Grand Island. I am also informed that our troops or part is to go immediately on board the fleet either to the head of the lake or Little York. This I think would be advisable in order to cut off their retreat. Our vessels on Lake Erie will be afloat in two days and ready to sail. Should the fleet go to York I mean to go with them and see a few battles and return to Sackett's Harbor. Any commands Your Excellency have for me will find me at the Harbor.

P. S.—We are informed that the British fleet is out. Should we fall in with them I think the contest will be very bloody. I have no doubt of their success.

I think Commodore Chauncey a valuable officer, and deserving the grateful thanks of his country.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 404-5, New York State Library.)



**Major-General Morgan Lewis to Governor Tompkins.**

NEWARK, U. C., 28th May, 1813.

SIR,—At one yesterday morning our troops were under arms; at three we embarked, and between eight and nine were landed on this shore under cover of the shipping, most judiciously disposed for that purpose by Commodore Chauncey. The enemy met us at the margin of the lake under cover of a bank covered with thick brush, and was soon put to rout. By one he was beaten at every point; blew up his magazines and retired to the Heights of Queenston, whither our troops were too much fatigued to pursue him. Our loss is one officer and 16 privates killed, 42 wounded. That of the enemy about 90 killed and 180 wounded, of whom 124 are in our possession, exclusive of 100 prisoners, all regular troops. When it is considered that the enemy had several fires at us while in our boats, the difference between our loss and his is extraordinary.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 403-4, New York State Library.)

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**Brigade Order.**

FIRST BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS,  
NEWARK, May 28th, 1813.

**BRIGADE ORDERS.**

The General commanding the first brigade feels a peculiar satisfaction in congratulating the troops on their glorious achievement of yesterday. Their conduct was such as entitles them to the thanks of their commander and the gratitude of their country.

Colonel Miller of the 6th Regiment deserves great applause for the steadiness in action and the rapidity with which he supported the advance under the gallant Scott. The 15th, under Major King, impatient to share the honors of the day, immediately succeeded and formed under a most galling fire. The 16th under Colonel Pearce urged their boats to the shore and bore an honorable participation in the contest. The light artillery under Colonel Porter merits the highest credit in bringing them up the steep bank, &c. Much was expected from Colonel McClure's volunteers, and the General has not been disappointed. It will be his duty as well as his inclination to make their claims known to the Commander-in-Chief. As all the troops of the brigade behaved so well it would be a difficult task to discriminate those who were pre-eminent, but the General cannot suppress his admiration of the fortitude of Major King, who continued to lead his regiment long after having received a painful

and debilitating wound. The exertions of the officers and men who ascended the bank and formed amid such a destructive fire excited his admiration and astonished the enemy, and will convince their countrymen as well as foes that their valor will overcome every resistance. The General will find great satisfaction in obeying the order of the Commander-in-Chief, which requires him to make a report of conspicuous merit whether found in the commissioned officers or in the ranks, and they may be assured that their distinguished actions shall not pass without proper encomiums. Altho' the General has not particularized individual merit he may perhaps be excused in recording the intrepid conduct of his aide-de-camp Lieut. Whiting and Brigade-Major Grafton. They have justified his expectations and are entitled to his applause.

If there is any honor to your Brigadier-General it is his having had command of such a valiant band.

JOHN P. BOYD,  
Brigadier-General com'd'g 1st Brigade.

(From Boyd's Documents and Facts, p. 14.)

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**Major-General Dearborn to Governor Tompkins.**

NEWARK, May 29, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—

We are now in quiet possession of both shores from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario, but the enemy has, I fear, escaped by pursuing the ridge of the mountain from Queenston towards the head of the lake, but if the winds favor us we may yet intercept him at York, though the prospect is unfavorable. I trust we shall have command on Lake Erie.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 407-8, New York State Library.)

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**Major D. Noon to Governor Tompkins.**

FORT GEORGE, 29th May, 1803, (*sic.*)

SIR,—Commodore Chauncey this moment received an express that the British fleet on this lake is out. We sail this night in pursuit of them, and should we fall in with them I am satisfied that the Commodore will give a good account of them. His fleet is well officered and manned. The army in this quarter have nothing to fear from the enemy, as they have collected all their men from all their posts and is on the way to Kingston. In fact this country

could not afford them provisions to maintain an army of 3,000 men, should they this moment regain their lost ground.

General Vincent commanded the enemy's forces at this place. We have taken considerable provisions and cannon from the enemy.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 408-9, New York State Library.)

### **Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

United States Ship *Madison*,  
 NIAGARA RIVER, May 29, 1813.

SIR,—Deeming the command of Lake Erie of primary importance I despatched Captain Perry yesterday, with 55 seamen, to Black Rock to take the five vessels there to Erie as soon as possible, and to prepare the whole squadron for service by the 15th of June. General Dearborn has promised me 200 soldiers to put on board the vessels at Black Rock to assist in protecting them to Erie. Mr. Eckford has, with uncommon exertions, prepared these vessels for service since the capture of York, and I think that Captain Perry will be ready to proceed for Presque Isle about the 3d or 4th of June. The two brigs building at Erie have been launched.

The *Queen Charlotte* and three others of the enemy's vessels came down to Fort Erie on the 26th instant, but as soon as they heard of the capture of Fort George and its dependencies they proceeded up the lake, I presume for Malden.

(From the Historical Register of the United States, 1814, Vol. II., pp. 226-7.)

### **General Dearborn to the Secretary of War.**

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE, May 29, 1813.

SIR,—General Lewis was ordered to march yesterday morning with Chandler's and Winder's brigades, the light artillery, dragoons, light infantry and riflemen in pursuit of the enemy by the way of Queenston. I had received satisfactory information that the enemy had made a stand on the mountain at a place called the Beaver Dams, where he had a deposit of provisions and stores, and that he had been joined by three hundred regulars from Kingston, landed from small vessels near the head of the lake. I had ascertained that he was calling in the militia, and had presumed that he would confide in the strength of his position and venture an action, by which an opportunity would be afforded to cut off his retreat.

I have been disappointed. Although the troops from Fort Erie and Chippawa had joined the main body at Beaver Dams, he broke

up yesterday precipitately, continued his route along the mountain and will reach the head of the lake by that route. Lieutenant-Colonel Preston took possession of Fort Erie and its dependencies last evening. The fort has been abandoned and the magazines blown up. I have ordered General Lewis to return without delay. We may yet cut off the enemy's retreat at York, but unfortunately we have plenty of rain but no wind; it may, however, change for the better in a few hours. I shall afford Commodore Chauncey every facility in my power in his preparations for commanding Lake Erie. He is very anxious to return to Sackett's Harbor, for, until his other ship is fitted, *it is not certain* he can continue in the command of Lake Ontario. I was the last evening honored with your despatches of the 15th instant. I have taken measures in relation to the twenty-three prisoners who are to be put in close confinement.

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**General Dearborn to the Secretary of War.**

NEWARK, UPPER CANADA, June 4, 1814.

(Extract.)

Chandler and Winder are in pursuit of the enemy, who has halted about forty-five miles from here. I am still very feeble and gain strength but slowly.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I.)

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**National Advocate, New York, 12th June, 1813.**

(From a postscript to the *Batavia Republican Advertiser*.)

From our correspondent at Buffalo:

The American flag is flying at Fort Erie. All the public property belonging to the enemy, consisting of provisions and clothing, was burnt, also the barracks excepting those at Fort Erie. His cannon were all burnt or spiked, the carriages destroyed and his magazines blown up. The fort and batteries were abandoned on the morning of the 28th. On the night following Colonel Preston took possession with about 400 men. Nothing is to be found in or about the batteries or storehouses but a complete heap of ruins. It is stated by the inhabitants, several of whom I have seen, that an immense quantity of provisions and clothing was destroyed by the enemy, and that he had made the best of his way to Kingston.

In addition to the above we learn by a gentleman direct from Queenston that our light dragoons daily bring in prisoners, that a

considerable quantity of clothing, provisions and ammunition had been found concealed in the woods a few miles from the lines, and that a part of the fleet had sailed with a number of troops on board, destined, it was supposed, to the 40 Mile Creek, to attempt cutting off the British in their retreat to Kingston.

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**National Advocate, New York, 23d June, 1813.**

Extract of a letter dated Fort George, Upper Canada, June 3, 1813:

We have had another battle and our flag waves triumphant over Fort George, the strongest place in Upper Canada. We lost but few officers and men. The British made but a feeble resistance, although they had 1200 regulars. Our success I attribute in a great measure to the good conduct of artillerists on our side of the river, who in a short period demolished all the enemy's works. Indeed their accurate firing and good management is beyond all praise. Major Armistead commanded during the cannonade at Fort Niagara. Fort George was completely demolished and burnt.

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**New York Statesman, June 21, 1813.**

LETTER TO THE BALTIMORE WHIG.

CAMP NEAR FORT GEORGE, June 5, 1813.

Many persons have come in from distant parts and been paroled. Several of them reside on the banks of the Grand River, (of Lake Erie,) to the middle and lower parts of which most of the Indians have retired, dreading the reward of their cruelty. About 200 warriors were at last accounts 14 miles beyond the English camp, having their herds of cattle behind, and placed their women and children in the woods.

On the first of June General Winder marched with his brigade in pursuit of the English army, which, instead of retreating so far, as was originally expected, took up a strong (but to them a critical) position about 40 miles from hence: their left towards Lake Ontario, Little Lake in their rear, and a swamp on their right, holding communication in front with the mountainous country between that and the Grand River. General Vincent cannot be outflanked, but his retreat may easily be cut off. As General Winder is enraged at

the generalship displayed here on the 27th, I am confident he will repair the error as far as possible. Strong bodies marched afterwards to support him from Boyd's brigade. The principal part of Chandler's is gone also. I hope to be able to write cheerful intelligence ere long. A cannonade was heard this morning, and by a party returned in boats we learn that a skirmish had taken place between a part of our advanced corps and a small party of the enemy.

(New York Society Library.)

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**Baltimore Whig, June 5, 1813.**

A letter we have received from an officer in the army says: "Our adherents and friends in Upper Canada suffer greatly in apprehension or in actual misery. Eighteen or twenty of them who refused to take the oath of allegiance to the King of England lived the last winter in a cave or subterraneous hut near Lake Simcoe. Twenty-five men, Indians and whites, were sent to ferret them out and kill or take them, but our Yankees, (as all Americans are styled there,) killed eighteen of the party and enjoyed their woods and their liberty till very lately, when some of the feeblest, worn out with cold and disease, were seized and put into York jail, whence we liberated them, and from one of them, an emaciated, greyheaded old man, (who I fear cannot long survive to enjoy his liberty,) I had this account, with other anecdotes. May our friends be speedily and effectually protected, and our enemies as speedily punished.

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**Lieut. Patrick McDonogh, 2d U. S. Artillery, to his Parents.**

NEWARK, May the 30th, 1813.

DEAR PARENTS,—

It is with pleasure I inform you that we are at last in Canada. We embarked for this place in boats and crossed on the 27th. The enemy met us on the shore and made a very obstinate resistance for about 15 minutes, when they retreated to Queenston Heights, spiking their guns and destroying their stores and ammunition as they went. Fort George, having been previously burned almost to ashes by hot shot from our fort and batteries, was evacuated on our approach. We might have taken them all prisoners were it not that our Generals advanced too cautiously, being apprehensive of explosions. Captain Roach has been slightly touched again in the

right arm. As he was without a command Col. Scott gave him the command of a three-pounder, with eight men from our company. On the 28th we proceeded on our march towards Fort Erie, thinking they would make a stand, but on our arrival at Queenston found that they had taken a different route, blown up that fort and were drawing their forces towards York. Our brigade was immediately ordered to cross by water to cut off their retreat to Kingston. We were all embarked this morning at daylight, but the wind being very high and against us, the General countermanded the order, considering it too great a risk in open boats, as it is almost impossible for a boat to live on the lake when there is any kind of a swell. We are to march around by land to-morrow or next day at farthest. The roads they say are very bad. The distance around the head of the lake to York is from ninety to one hundred miles.

This is a delightful place. The people had evacuated it but are returning daily. They are generally loyal for a few miles back.

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(From advance sheets of the Records of the American Historical Society of Philadelphia.)

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## Return of the Troops at the 40 Mile Creek, 30th, May, 1813.

| Corps.                 | Majors. | Captains. | Lieuts. | Ensigns. | Adjutants. | Paymasters. | Qr. Masters. | Surgeons. | Sergeants. | Drummers. | Rank and File. | Field Ordnance. |         |                   |
|------------------------|---------|-----------|---------|----------|------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|---------|-------------------|
|                        |         |           |         |          |            |             |              |           |            |           |                | 6 Pdrs.         | 3 Pdrs. | 5½ inch howitzer. |
| Royal Artillery.....   |         | 2         | 2       |          |            |             |              |           | 1          |           | 51             | 6               | 4       | 1                 |
| Do., do., Drivers..... |         | 1         | 2       |          |            |             |              |           | 2          |           | 30             |                 |         |                   |
| 8th King's Regt.....   | 2       | 2         | 7       |          |            |             |              | 1         | 15         | 5         | 350            |                 |         |                   |
| 41st Regt.....         |         | 2         | 6       | 1        | 1          | 1           |              | 1         | 26         | 2         | 361            |                 |         |                   |
| 49th Regt.....         | 1       | 8         | 9       | 6        | 1          | 1           | 1            | 1         | 39         | 14        | 551            |                 |         |                   |
| R. Nfld Regt.....      |         | 2         | 3       |          |            |             |              |           | 3          | 2         | 60             |                 |         |                   |
| Glengarry L. I.....    |         | 1         |         | 2        |            |             |              |           | 3          |           | 55             |                 |         |                   |
| Dragoons.....          |         | 1         |         | 1        |            |             |              |           | 4          |           | 35             |                 |         |                   |
| Colored corps.....     |         |           | 1       |          |            |             |              |           | 2          |           | 27             |                 |         |                   |
| Militia.....           |         | 2         | 2       | 2        |            |             |              |           | 6          |           | 40             |                 |         |                   |
| Total.....             | 3       | 21        | 32      | 12       | 2          | 2           | 1            | 3         | 101        | 23        | 1576           |                 |         |                   |

Return of ammunition has been called for but not yet furnished.

J. B. GLEGG,  
Lt.-Col., B. M.

MEMO.—The following detachment joined in in the afternoon of the 30th, from Fort Erie :

|                      | Cap. | Sergts. | R. & F. |  | R. & F. Missing. |
|----------------------|------|---------|---------|--|------------------|
|                      |      |         |         |  |                  |
| Royal Artillery..... |      | 1       | 7       |  | 1                |
| 41st Regiment.....   | 1    | 2       | 21      |  | 2                |
|                      |      |         |         |  |                  |
|                      | 1    | 3       | 28      |  | 3                |

J. B. GLEGG, Lt.-Col.  
B. M.

(From Memorandum in possession of Lt.-Col. Turner and Canadian Archives, C. 679.)



**Proclamation by Lieutenant-Colonel Preston.**

The Commandant at Fort Erie finding the people in its vicinity anxious to obtain special protections deems it necessary to make a public declaration that all those who may come forward and voluntarily enroll their names with him and claim the protection of the United States shall have their property and personal rights secured to them inviolate. He invites all who mean to pursue this course to take it immediately that they may be distinguished from the enemy, and while he assures them that their interest and happiness will be regarded by the Government of the United States, he solemnly warns those who may obstinately continue inimical that they are bringing on themselves the most rigorous and disastrous consequences, as they will be pursued and treated with that spirit of retaliation which the treatment of the American prisoners in the hands of the British so justly inspires.

JAMES P. PRESTON, Lt.-Col.,  
12th Regt. Infantry, commanding at Fort Erie,  
Black Rock and Buffalo.  
30th May, 1813.

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**New York Evening Post, 1813.**

**HAND BILL.**

Having heard since I had command at Fort Erie that some unprincipled and lawless persons have crossed into Canada with a view to plunder and maraud, contrary to express orders, I deem it my duty to forewarn them from practices so dishonorable and degrading, and solemnly to assure them that every vigilance will be exerted to detect and bring them to rigorous punishment under martial law for such outrages.

JAS. P. PRESTON, Lt.-Col.,  
12th Regt. Inf., commanding at Fort Erie,  
Black Rock and Buffalo.  
May 30, 1813.

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**(From the Buffalo Gazette, 1st June, 1813.)**

**FORT GEORGE EVACUATED.**

This post was evacuated on Thursday last in the evening. On Friday we issued the intelligence in a hand bill, which we now republish with corrections and some additional particulars.

On Thursday morning, in conformity with previous arrangements, 4,000 men, under the immediate command of Gen. Lewis, embarked on board the fleet lying near Fort Niagara, under command of Commodore Chauncey. During the early part of the morning there was a thick fog, which prevented the landing until 8 or 9 o'clock, when the vessels formed in a curved line off the point beyond the lighthouse, and in rear of Newark. A vanguard consisting of 800 picked men, (among whom were Forsyth's riflemen and a number of the Baltimore and Albany volunteers,) under the command of Colonel Scott, now put for the shore and effected their landing in good order. Part of them ascended the bank and were attacked by the enemy, who had drawn his whole force to this point. They gave back and formed on the beach; a spirited fire was now exchanged for 15 minutes, which had but little effect on our troops, they being partly sheltered by the bank, but the van again ascended the bank amidst a shower of musketry, and compelled the enemy to give the ground. Colonel Scott was ably seconded by a powerful and well directed fire from the shipping. A body of rising 2,000 men made a landing and the enemy prudently took up their line of retreat in the rear of Fort George; the flying artillery, (which had also landed,) played upon the enemy in his retreat with considerable effect.

General Lewis now formed a line extending from the lighthouse to the Niagara river above Fort George to prevent the escape of the enemy, but all had made good their retreat except a dozen who had been left to blow up their magazines. Two small magazines were blown up,—a short time after which their principal magazine shared the same fate. The men left in the fort were taken and sent to Fort Niagara. Part of the army entered Fort George; the British flag was taken down and the American flag substituted in its place, amidst the acclamations of thousands.

From an early hour in the morning until the British retreated, Fort Niagara and the batteries opened a most tremendous cannonade upon Fort George and the British batteries and entirely demolished them. The two schooners, *Growler* and *Ontario*, anchored in the mouth of the Niagara river and played upon the fort and batteries with much effect.

The enemy were commanded by General Vincent. Their forces were estimated at 3,000 regulars and militia. We understand they retreated by the Beaver Dams for the Short Hills, (about 20 miles from Queenston,) It is reported that General Lewis with a respectable force has gone in pursuit of the enemy.

Our loss in the action at the landing has been variously stated.

We believe, however, that it will not be far from 30 killed and wounded. The enemy's loss was much greater.

The village of Newark was entirely deserted by its inhabitants. The public stores at Queenston were removed or destroyed.

Dr. C. Chapin of this village was in the vanguard. General Porter, we understand, went with General Lewis as an aid. General Dearborn was on board the Commodore's ship during the landing.

Those two fine troops of light dragoons under Captains Bird and Selden, which encamped in this village last Tuesday night, arrived at Fort Niagara and crossed the river on the day of battle.

We do not learn that any private buildings were destroyed at Newark.

The following letter written on the day of action is all the written information we possess.

"Fort George and the batteries are ours; the former demolished, the magazine being blown up by the enemy. The fort destroyed by our artillery: it is inferior to none in the world. The enemy have retreated a few miles; more fighting to be expected. Our loss, 10 killed, a few wounded. Major King wounded in the arm; 13 prisoners have been sent over."

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#### EVACUATION OF FORT ERIE.

About 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day an express arrived at Fort Erie from the British commander below. It is understood that the express brought orders for all the regulars to march immediately down to join General Vincent on his retreat, and also for Major Warren, (of the militia,) to open a fire upon Black Rock and continue the same until the next morning, and then burst his guns, blow up his magazines and dismiss his men. He executed his orders. The batteries below the fort immediately opened a fire upon Black Rock, which was returned and continued at intervals during the night. Early in the morning the destruction of their military stores commenced. All the magazines, all their barracks, public stores and storehouses from Chippawa to Point Abino have been blown up or burnt.

Not a person was injured at the Rock during the whole cannonade. The barracks and several private buildings received a few shot.

In the evening of Friday Lieut.-Col. J. P. Preston, commandant at Black Rock, crossed over with his regiment and entered Fort Erie. From the humane and salutary measures adopted by Colonel Preston on his entrance into the enemy's territory in discriminating between friends and enemies and securing those well disposed in

their persons and property, we anticipate that he will be very favorably received by the inhabitants of Canada.

In the early part of last week two of the enemy's armed ships left the marine and came down and anchored off Erie a day or two, and on Thursday last, (27th,) made their appearance off Point Abino, 12 miles above Fort Erie. They remained there until they ascertained the result of the battle at Newark, when they disappeared beyond the point and have probably gone to Malden.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

**Baltimore Whig, June 14th, 1813.**

Extract of a letter from an officer in the army to the editors, dated

NEWARK, UPPER CANADA, May 30, 1813.

Before this reaches your hand rumor will have told you of the fall of Fort George at this town on the 27th inst. The advanced corps under Colonel Scott sustained a very heavy fire on landing for about 25 minutes, when the British gave way.

When we marched to Queenston on the evening of the 28th we found, (what intelligent men had told us at Newark,) that the enemy was far advanced on his retreat by the back road towards the lower part of the Province with about 3,000 men. The British had evacuated their different posts above and collected their force very actively.

General Boyd is a fine soldier and a humane man. Colonel Scott also and Major King distinguished themselves on the 27th, as did almost every man who had a chance of fighting the enemy. Our friends hereabouts are greatly relieved by our visit. They had been terribly persecuted by the Scottish myrmidons of England. Their present joy is equal to their past misery.

This is a most charming country, but its uncertain destiny, together with the vexations the farmers endured by being dragged out in the militia, left the fields in a great measure uncultivated.

What force the enemy may be able to collect at the lower end of the Province I know not, but it is supposed they can raise a pretty large army. However, their Indians are not of much use to them. They run as soon as a battle grows hot. I saw but one of their Indians and one negro, (with the Glengarry uniform,) dead on the field, a proof that neither their *black* nor *red* allies are very potent nor brave. Their 8th (or Royal Regiment) fought very resolutely and suffered severely from the fire of the despised Yankees.

**Colonel Baynes to Sir George Prevost.**

KINGSTON, May 30, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honour to report to Your Excellency that in conformity to an arranged plan of operations with Commodore Sir James Yeo, the fleet of boats assembled astern of his ship at ten o'clock on the night of the 28th instant with the troops placed under my command, and led by a gunboat under the direction of Captain Mulcaster, Royal Navy, proceeded towards Sackett's Harbour in the order prescribed to the troops in case the detachment was obliged to march in column, viz.: The grenadier company, 100th, with one section of the Royal Scots, two companies of the 8th (or King's,) four of the 104th, two of the Canadian Voltigeurs, two six pounders with their gunners and a company of Glen-garry Light Infantry, were embarked on board a light schooner, which was proposed to be towed under the direction of officers of the navy so as to ensure the guns being landed in time to support the advance of the troops. Although the night was dark with rain, the boats assembled in the vicinity of Sackett's Harbour by one o'clock in compact and regular order, and in this position it was intended to remain until the day broke, in the hope of effecting a landing before the enemy could be prepared to line the woods with troops, which surround the coast, but unfortunately a strong current drifted the boats considerably, while the darkness of the night and ignorance of the coast prevented them from recovering the proper station until the day dawned, when the whole pulled for the point of debarkation.

It was my intention to have landed in the cove formed by Horse Island, but on approaching it we discovered that the enemy were fully prepared, by a very heavy fire of musketry from the surrounding woods, which were filled with infantry supported with a field piece. I directed the boats to pull round to the other side of the island, where a landing was effected in good order and with little loss, although executed in the face of a corps formed with a field piece in the wood, and under the enfilade of a heavy gun of the enemy's principal battery. The advance was led by the grenadiers of the 100th Regiment with undaunted gallantry, which no obstacles could arrest. A narrow causeway, in many places under water, not more than four feet wide and four hundred paces in length, which connected the island with the mainland was occupied by the enemy in great force, with a six-pounder. It was forced and carried in the most spirited manner, and the gun taken before a second discharge could be made from it; a tumbril with a few

rounds of ammunition was found, but unfortunately the artillerymen were still behind, the schooner not having been able to get up in time, and the troops were exposed to so heavy and galling a fire from a numerous but almost invisible foe as to render it impossible to halt for the artillery to come up. At this spot two paths led in opposite directions round the hill. I directed Colonel Young of the King's Regiment, with half of the detachment, to penetrate by the left, and Major Drummond of the 104th to force the path by the right, which proved to be the more open and was less occupied by the enemy. On the left the wood was very thick and was most obstinately maintained by the enemy.

The gunboats, which had covered our landing, afforded material aid by firing into the woods, but the American soldier, secure behind a tree, was only to be dislodged by the bayonet. The spirited advance of a section produced the flight of hundreds. From this observation all firing was directed to cease, and the detachment being formed in as regular order as the nature of the ground would admit pushed forward through the wood upon the enemy, who, although greatly superior in numbers and supported by field pieces and a heavy fire from their fort, fled with precipitation to their blockhouse and fort, abandoning one of their guns. The division under Colonel Young was joined in the charge by that under Major Drummond, which was executed with such spirit and promptness that many of the enemy fell in their enclosed barracks, which were set on fire by our troops. At this point the further energies of the troops became unavailing. Their blockhouse and stockaded battery could not be carried by assault, nor reduced by fieldpieces had we been provided with them. The fire of the gunboats proved inefficient to attain that end. Light and adverse winds continued and our larger vessels were still far off. The enemy turned the heavy ordnance of his battery to the interior defence of his post. He had set fire to the storehouses in the vicinity of the fort.

Seeing no object within our reach to attain that could compensate for the loss that we were momentarily sustaining from the heavy fire of the enemy's cannon, I directed the troops to take up the position on the crest of the hill we had charged from. From this position we were ordered to re-embark, which was performed at our leisure and in perfect order, the enemy not presuming to show a single soldier without the limits of his fortress. Your Excellency having been a witness of the zeal and ardent courage of every soldier in the field, it is unnecessary in me to assure Your Excellency that but one sentiment animated every breast, that of discharging to the utmost of their power their duty to their King and country; but one sentiment of regret and mortification prevailed on

being obliged to quit a beaten enemy, whom a small band of British soldiers had driven before them for three hours through a country abounding in strong positions of defence but not offering a single spot of cleared ground favorable for the operations of disciplined troops, without having fully accomplished the duty we were ordered to perform.

The two divisions of the detachment were ably commanded by Colonel Young of the King's and Major Drummond of the 104th. The detachment of the King's under Major Evans nobly sustained the high and established character of that distinguished corps, and Captain Burke availed himself of the ample field afforded him in leading the advance to display the intrepidity of British grenadiers. The detachment of the 104th Regiment under Major Moodie, Captain McPherson's company of Glengarry Light Infantry, and two companies of Canadian Voltigeurs commanded by Major Heriot, all of them levies of the British Provinces of North America, evinced most striking proofs of their loyalty, steadiness and courage. The detachment of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment behaved with great gallantry.

Your Excellency will lament the loss of that active and intelligent officer, Captain Gray, Acting Deputy-Quartermaster General, who fell close to the enemy's work while reconnoitering it in the hope to discover some opening to favor an assault.

Commodore Sir James Yeo conducted the fleet of boats in the attack, and, accompanying the advance of the troops, directed the co-operation of the gunboats.

I feel most grateful for Your Excellency's kind consideration in allowing your aides-de-camp, Majors Coore and Fulton, to accompany me in the field, and to these officers for the able assistance they afforded me.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 121, p. 237.)

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#### **Return of the Killed, Wounded and Missing in an Attack on Sackett's Harbour on the 29th May, 1813.**

Killed—1 deputy assistant quartermaster-general, three sergeants, forty-four rank and file.

Wounded—Three majors, three captains, five lieutenants, one ensign, seven sergeants, two drummers, 172 rank and file, two gunners.

Wounded and Missing—Two captains, one ensign, 13 rank and file.

Killed—Captain Alexander Gray, assistant deputy quartermaster general.

Wounded—8th Regiment—Major Evans, Lieuts. Lowry and Metall, (mortally.) 104th Regiment—Majors Drummond and Moodie, Captains Leonard and Shore, Lieuts. Rainsford, DeLancey and Moore. Glengarry Light Infantry—Captain McPherson.

Wounded and Missing—8th or King's Regiment—Captains Blackmore and Tyeth, Ensign Greig.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 121.

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**Mr. E. B. Brenton to Captain Noah Freer.**

KINGSTON, 30th May, 1813.

MY DEAR FREER,—

We received information about one o'clock on Thursday, the 27th, by the return of Sir James Yeo, who had been in to reconnoître Sackett's Harbour, that the whole of the enemy's fleet were out, and knowing that they were employed at Niagara, where an attack had commenced on the 24th, it was determined to proceed with all the force we could collect and endeavor to get possession of and destroy the new ship and stores. By the greatest exertions the troops were all embarked on *bateaux* and small craft by sunset, and proceeded to join the ships at anchor at the mouth of the harbour. We, (Sir George and staff,) followed in canoes. It was very late before we got on board the *Wolfe*, and as there was not room on board for the whole, several *bateaux* loaded [with troops] were dropped astern, where they remained during the night. Our intention was to weigh anchor immediately so as to fetch Sackett's Harbour by daylight, but the wind failed when we most wanted it, and we did not get in sight of the place till broad daylight. We then attempted to beat in, but the wind being most provokingly light and baffling we had not by 2 o'clock p. m. approached nearer than ten miles. During this time alarm guns were constantly firing from the batteries and from two schooners, which came a short way out of the harbour. We could plainly see them assembling near the barracks, and upwards of twenty *bateaux* loaded with men rowing down near shore, whom we could not intercept.

As there appeared no prospect of the wind changing, and the notice we had then afforded the enemy of our approach deprived us of the advantage we expected of making a *coup de main*, it was thought even by the most sanguine that it would be best to abandon the attempt. The men previously ordered into the boats were ordered out of them, and we began to turn our heads towards Kingston, when the wind suddenly shifted against us and we had as much difficulty in beating out of the harbour as in beating in. A most extraordinary incident at this period occurred, which occa-



sioned a second change in our determination and led to an attack. Three Indian canoes supported by a gunboat had been despatched from the ships to intercept a brigade of boats passing along the shore with reinforcements, and they obliged these boats to put in shore, and the Indians having landed a smart skirmish took place, in which one Indian was killed, another wounded and a prisoner brought off. Shortly after the return of the canoes a flag of truce was seen coming from the shore where the skirmish had happened and where a number of persons and boats were collected. The boat having reached us an officer in cavalry uniform came down into the cabin where we were at dinner, and, asking for the Commodore, said he had come to surrender his whole party prisoners of war. They amounted to between 200 and 300. The gunboat was immediately despatched [to receive them,] and about eight *bateaux* with about 115 men with their arms, accoutrements and some tents, &c., were brought on board. This very singular event, depriving the enemy of part of the intended reinforcements and marking so clearly the description of people we had to contend with, together with a state of wind so favourable for reaching the harbour, led to further consultation, when Colonel Baynes, who was in command of the expedition, with Colonel Young, Gray and others were decidedly of the opinion that the attempt should be made. Sir George, who had been not a little surprised that they had previously entertained any doubt of it, consented, and arrangements were made immediately for all the boats to assemble round the *Wolfe*, whence they were to start at 12 p. m. and put in for shore about two miles from us so as to reach it at dawn and land under cover of the guns of the gunboats and the *Beresford* if she could reach the place of landing in time. The ships at anchor were to weigh an hour before daylight and to act as circumstances might point out. The whole force, consisting of about 25 Royals, near 200 of the 8th, 330 of the 104th, 56 of the 100th, 46 Glengarry and about 120 *Voltigeurs*, making with the marines in the gunboats 700 or 800 men put off at 12, a gunboat leading the way with a light. Sir George, who could not rest satisfied on board and yet who could not consistently command the expedition, embarked in a canoe with Captain McDouall, Dr. Macaulay and myself at 2.30 A. M. Fulton and Coore had accompanied Colonel Baynes. About half an hour before day dawned we were near enough the boats to hear the oars, and as soon as the first glimpse of light appeared the reveille beat in the enemy's post and we discovered the boats just ahead of us making for shore in an oblique line. They approached near enough to be fired upon at 3.30 A. M., and as they skirted the shore to reach an island where they were to land a continual fire

of musketry was kept up. At this time we had joined the sternmost boats, which were lagging, and were pushing them on, when the enemy opened a fire of musketry from the island and grape from two six-pounders on the mainland, and several shot flew over our canoe. The gunboats beginning to fire, the wood was cleared on the island, where a landing was immediately effected, but the men from the first gunboat being most exposed several were killed or wounded in disembarking, amongst them Captain Leonard of the 104th. The troops pushed on through and round the island to a ford, which separated it from the mainland, when the enemy appeared there in considerable force with three field-pieces. Here we lost several men. They were at length driven away and the fieldpieces taken. The column then advanced by a road along the shore in the direction of the battery and blockhouse, the enemy keeping up a galling fire from the woods and bushes. Sir George, McDouall and myself were following and pushing on the rear, and as we advanced the number of dead and wounded officers and men we met or that were lying on the ground clearly showed the resistance of the enemy to be determined and their number very far exceeding our information respecting it. The troops had proceeded about half a mile when they came on the main work, when the fire was so much increased and the opposition so great that our men were constantly falling back on the rear where we were, and balls were whizzing about us in all directions, killing several persons near us. At this period Colonel Baynes came up to Sir George and told him that the enemy was so strongly posted and so sheltered by blockhouses and other works that our men could not approach them, weakened as they were by the losses of the morning, with any prospect of success. It was, however, determined to collect all the troops to a point, form the line and make an attack immediately upon the batteries and barracks in front. For this purpose the men in front were called in and line formed a little out of reach of the enemy's musketry, and though much fagged, after being supplied with ammunition, they were again led on in line. At this time I do not think the whole force collected in line exceeded 300 men. They advanced in two lines on the right and left of the enemy, and although a most destructive fire was commenced the 8th, 100th and part of the 104th on the left penetrated to one of the barracks, got possession of a piece of ordnance and sheltered themselves behind the barrack to prepare for a further advance. The other line or part of the first, for it was but one line, centering more to the right, was on high ground among stumps and logs, to which Sir George's ardour and indifference to danger carried him. Here the fire was tremendous. I do not exaggerate when I tell you

that shot, both grape and musket, flew like hail. Coore came up and gave Sir George his glass. We were trying to fix it on a stump when a shower of grape covered us, a ball falling within a yard or two of him. At this time those who were left of the troops behind the barracks made a dash out to charge the enemy, but the fire was so destructive they were instantly turned by it, and the retreat was sounded. Sir George, fearless of danger and disdaining to run or to suffer his men to run, called out repeatedly to them to retire in order. Many, however, made off as fast as they could. We retired with the hindmost, nor was it, I assure you, with a quickstep, though showers of grape were falling about us. Fortunately the enemy did not attempt a pursuit, but contented themselves with discharging musketry and ordnance along the road and through the wood, as long as they thought they could reach us. Just as the retreat began, the enemy, no doubt appalled by the firmness and boldness of the last advance, set fire to stores containing naval articles, no doubt preparatory to the destruction of the new ship. Finding as soon as we could collect our troops that many of our men were disabled or killed, and that the ships could not approach for want of wind within several miles of the enemy's batteries, and that our artillery was not brought up, we determined to re-embark.

The enemy made not the smallest attempt to interrupt the embarkation. We brought off all our men except a few wounded [who fell] near the scene of the last attack, together with a brass field-piece, some arms, tent equipage and about 25 prisoners. We reached the ship about 9 o'clock A. M., the attack having lasted about four hours. Captain Gray fell in the last attack and his body remained in their possession. Our loss in killed and wounded is near 200. The enemy's force cannot have been less than 3,000, as they received a reinforcement of 700 that morning. I think we may boast of having accomplished much in compelling them to burn their stores and in taking three guns, one of which remains in our possession. Their loss must have been considerable. We hear they lost one Colonel.

After we embarked, the wind heading us, Sir George and suite left the *Wolfe* in a canoe about 10 o'clock yesterday, and arrived safely at Kingston about 8 o'clock last evening. The ships all anchored here this evening. There cannot be a doubt that they have recalled their fleet from Niagara by express and Sir James Yeo is preparing to start to-morrow to meet it. They have obliged us to abandon our position on the Niagara, and our troops have fallen back into the interior.

**Major-General Brown to Governor Tompkins.**

SACKETT'S HARBOR, May 29, 1813.

SIR,—We were attacked at dawn of this day by a British regular force of at least 900 men, (and most probably 1200.) They made good their landing at Horse Island. The enemy's fleet consisted of two ships, four schooners and 30 large open boats. We are completely victorious. The enemy lost a considerable number in killed and wounded on the field, among the number several officers of distinction. After having re-embarked they sent me a flag desiring to have their killed and wounded attended to. I made them satisfied on that subject. Americans will be distinguished for humanity and bravery. Our loss is not numerous, but serious from the great worth of those who have fallen. Colonel Mills was shot dead at the commencement of the action, and Colonel Backus of the light dragoons nobly fell at the head of his regiment as victory was declaring for us. I will not presume to praise this regiment—much gallant conduct on this day deserves more than praise. The new ship and Commodore Chauncey's prize, the *Duke of Gloucester*, are yet safe in Sackett's Harbor. Sir George Prevost landed and commanded in person. Sir James L. Yeo commanded the enemy's fleet.

(Tompkins Papers, New York State Library.)

**Major-General Jacob Brown to Governor D. D. Tompkins.**

SACKETT'S HARBOR, June 1st, 1813.

SIR,—You will have received mine from the field of battle. All that I have stated is so. I have now to add that on the 25th I received a communication from General Dearborn desiring me to take command at this post. I hesitated. Colonel Backus was here, an officer of experience in whom I placed the most implicit confidence, and I could not do an act which I feared would wound his feelings. In the night of the 27th Colonel Backus wrote me, per Major Swan, desiring me to come and take the command. I could no longer hesitate. Early in the morning of the 28th I was here. As the day opened Lieut. Chauncey, the brother of our worthy Commodore, came in from the lake firing alarm guns. The signal guns that had been agreed upon some days previous to rally the militia were fired in answer, and I sent out expresses in every direction to alarm the country. As soon as Lieut. Chauncey came into port he advised me that the fleet approaching was an enemy, and with the glass we could see that they had a very ample supply

of boats. I then no longer doubted but they were resolved to land with a chosen body of troops and storm our works.

The few artillerists we had to man the guns of Forts Tompkins and Volunteer prepared themselves for the worst, and Lieut. Chauncey did everything possible to support and strengthen Navy Point, the guns on which were altogether under his command, and manned by his officers and men. As Colonel Backus and others had recently arrived on this station, I wanted him to accompany me through a thorough examination of the ground around our position, and as soon as this had been done we settled a regular plan of defence. I had ever been of opinion that no military man would risque his men in the mouth of Sackett's Harbor, for reasons which would be superfluous here to explain. I knew there was a place where determined men might land with considerable safety under cover of the fire from their small flat-bottomed gunboats, which I also knew had recently arrived from Montreal, and were in all probability with the fleet.

At the water's edge near Horse Island, where I believed the enemy would land, I was resolved to meet them, and with this view the plan of defence was settled between myself, Colonel Backus, Colonel Mills, Lieut. Chauncey, Major Swan and Major Brown.

I was to meet the enemy near the water's edge, where I believed they would land, with all the militia that came in, and the Albany volunteers under Colonel Mills. At the alarm or orders given by me Colonel Backus was to order a body of regulars to advance so as to meet the enemy after they had broken or dispersed the force under me. The force under me being broken I was to rally them and fall upon the enemy's right flank so as to retard their approach toward Fort Tompkins as long as possible, always hoping that the country would send forth all its means to our assistance, and that to gain time was to ensure victory. If, however, the enemy should overcome the assembled regulars and militia, and drive us the whole length of Horse Island to Fort Tompkins and carry that fort, Lieut. Chauncey was then and in that case to see the stores on Navy Point destroyed, the new sloop burnt, and return with his schooners and the men he had left to the south shore of the bay east of Fort Volunteer. The force remaining with me to retire to Fort Volunteer, the highest ground, as being the last and *dernier resort*, and if the enemy should prove too hard for Lieut. Chauncey he was to land his men and blow up his vessels and join me in Fort Volunteer, where we should be governed by circumstances. This being our plan and the enemy having first struck us as contemplated, it remains to see how well our plan was executed. The wind being very light during the whole of the 28th, and the enemy having

arrangements to make for landing, they moved slowly up the bay, but no doubt would have attacked us in the course of the afternoon had it not been for the approach of boats from Oswego with reinforcements. This circumstance diverted them for a time. They attacked the boats, took of them and a number of our men, but with what loss to them or to us in other respects I am yet uninformed. In the course of the 28th and night of the 28th and 29th a considerable number of militia assembled. They were as they arrived ordered to a small improvement on the main just within Horse Island, and such provisions as could be furnished were carted to the ground, where they all ate in common paying no attention to the ordinary mode of drawing rations. Colonel Mills of the Albany volunteers was on the island. I joined the force assembled near Horse Island, and explained to the leading officer my views, as I feared a night attack. It being of the first importance to the enemy to be rapid in their movements and to prevent the fatal effects (to them) of the force that would be assembled by morning, and of those brave men that I supposed would generously fly to their country's standard, ambitious to have a name in the victory that I firmly believed was certain. As the morning of the 29th approached I found myself with part of three regiments of militia and a part of the Albany volunteers, amounting altogether say to five hundred men, all anxious for the fight, were you to believe their professions.

The moment it was so light as to see an object on the bay the enemy's ships were discovered in nearly a direct line between the head of Horse Island and Stoney Point, and within ten minutes 33 boats filled with men approached us from the largest Indian or Gardiner's Island, when the action in fact began as the enemy immediately opened upon us with his gunboats. I directed Colonel Backus to advance and ordered Colonel Mills to join me on the main. The moment Colonel Mills had joined I ordered of the Albany volunteers, who had the command of a travelling 6-pounder, to open upon the enemy. The Albany volunteers under Colonel Mills, were then laid down on the right behind a small natural breastwork on the beach, and all the militia under Colonel Sprague behind the same breastwork on the left, and those under Colonel Tuttle to take a position that I pointed out about 30 rods upon my left flank by the edge of the woods near the bay to prevent a surprise from savages, which I expected would come in from that quarter. The enemy by this time had landed a body of men at Horse Island, who were advancing in open column upon a line with the enemy's front boats. Every exertion was then made to inspire my little force with confidence, and if they would but lay

firm and restrain their fire I was confident that every man must nearly kill his man. I then took my position in the centre by the left of the men at the 6-pounder, directly in front of the column approaching from the island, and all was silent with me except this 6-pounder, the enemy approaching and keeping up as heavy a fire as possible from their gunboats. Not a shot was fired from their column, the front approaching charging bayonets. It appears impossible to restrain raw troops so as to make them in any degree useful. Those with me did fire and would fire before I intended. The enemy were, however, pretty near, and as I was intently watching the happy effects of our fire, to my utter astonishment my men arose from their cover, broke, and before I could realize the disgraceful scene there was scarcely a man within several rods of where I stood. Colonel Mills fell gallantly, struggling to stop his men. I was more fortunate. I made all the noise I could for my men, put my handkerchief on the point of my sword and made every sort of signal possible that they might notice me, but in vain. At a little distance, however, I had the good fortune to come up with Captain McNitt, who had succeeded in rallying some men, and they were doing all they could from behind some large logs by the edge of the field. I complimented them, complained of those who had left me, ordered Captain McNitt to stand fast, and would go to call up Colonel Tuttle from the point where I had ordered him. I went, but no Colonel Tuttle could I find nor any other man. By the time I returned Captain Mayo and a few others had joined Captain McNitt.

I then ordered an advance upon the rear of the enemy's right, and I trust some execution was done, but as my party did not exceed 100, and as I deemed it very important for me to know how things stood in front of the enemy, where the regulars were most nobly contending, I ordered a rapid movement forward to pass the enemy, and as we were advancing a fire came at some distance upon our right flank. We halted, faced about, and McNitt was in the act of firing when I ordered a little delay, saying they might be our friends. In a moment we saw the red coats approaching from the right of the path along which we had passed. McNitt gave them his last fire and we made a rapid retreat upon the extreme left of the few brave men who had sustained the conflict in front. As I last turned from the enemy and came out of the woods upon the left of our friends, I saw an alarming flame arising from Navy Point, the position which contained the spoils of York and some few of Commodore Chauncey's effects. With all possible expedition I made my way into Fort Tompkins, and found Lieut. Ketchum, the officer I had left there, in the act of firing the long 32 at the



enemy's shipping. I desired him to keep up as heavy a fire as possible, and assured him that victory was ours. He replied: "General, I cannot fire this piece again, the flame from the marine barracks is so hot my men cannot remain here." I felt the force of this answer and replied: "Do the best you can," and left him, being alarmed for the ship, the object of the contest.

I hurried towards her and found Major Brown, who assured me that the ship was safe and that what had happened was due to the infamous conduct of those in whom Lieut. Chauncey had placed confidence, that it was without his knowledge they had gone from Navy Point and informed Chauncey all was lost upon the right of our line of battle. I ordered Major Brown to send forthwith and assure him all was safe upon our right and that victory was ours. On passing up the Brownsville, Middle and Adams roads I perceived some hundreds of idle men were assembled at a very respectful distance from danger. Major Swan rode up and informed me that their fixed ammunition was expended. I replied: "It may be so, but I do not believe it. If so, tell no man." I then rode among these people and they tried to impose upon me as they had done upon the Major, but I knew them better and could admit of no such excuse. Many of them had drawn their boxes full the day before and never fired a gun at the enemy. With much ado I got them to move towards the right flank of the enemy in hopes of throwing them into the woods behind Sir George Prevost, should he presume to advance further. I then ordered Major Sackett, who I knew would not hesitate, to advance with his mounted light dragoons into the open space west of Judge Sackett's old house, and nearly in a line between the enemy and the ship. It was done. Hurrying to where the British and American regulars fought, I very soon felt that victory was really ours, and if Sir George had not been off with almost the rapidity of thought he would not have returned that day.

N. B.—About 400 of the regular troops sustained the heat of the action. These consisted chiefly of the 1st Light Dragoons, some of the 9th and 25th and a few of the 23d Infantry and 3d Light Artillery.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., New York State Library.)

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### District General Order.

FORTY MILE CREEK, 29th May, 1813. •

The direction and arrangement of baggage and waggons is vested in the Quartermaster-General of Militia, Lieutenant-Colonel



Nichol, and all officers and soldiers are required to conform to such requisitions as may be made by him to enable him to fulfil this important branch of the service.

J. HARVEY, Lt.-Col.,  
D. A. G.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 144, p. 116.)

**Brigadier-General Vincent to Colonel Baynes.**

BAZELEY'S, HEAD OF THE LAKE, 31st May, 1813.

SIR,—I have to inform you for the information of the Commander of the Forces, that I have arrived here this evening and have taken up a strong position that I propose keeping until I receive your orders or reinforcements arrive.

I have just heard from Major Allan that some companies of the 8th were expected into York this evening. I have sent off an express to hasten their march to join me without delay, and not to remain one night at York, as Chauncey and his whole fleet got under way this day at one o'clock, as I suppose for York. I hope our fleet will be on the lake to-morrow to meet them, and give me an opportunity of retaking Fort George.

I shall write you more fully by Dr. Strachan to-morrow.

We want everything—shoes, stockings, blankets, tents and shirts. I have wrote to York to forward me all they may have at that post.

I wrote to General Dearborn to send all the officers' families either to York or Kingston, which you will find by the enclosed letter he has consented to provided we send a vessel for them, which I hope will be done immediately.

I am happy to inform you that Colonel Myers is much better. He is wounded in five places, but not dangerously.

(Canadian Archives, C. 678.)

**Major-General Dearborn to Sir George Prevost.**

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE, May 31st, 1813.

SIR,—R. G. Beasley, Esqr., our Commissary of Prisoners in London, has made it known to my government that twenty-three soldiers of the 1st, 6th and 13th Regiments of United States Infantry, made prisoners, have been sent to England and held in close confinement as British subjects, and I am instructed by my government to put into close confinement twenty-three British soldiers to be kept as

hostages for the safe keeping and restoration on exchange of the soldiers of the United States who have been sent as above stated to England.

I now, therefore, have the honor to apprise Your Excellency that in obedience to the instructions from my government I have put twenty-three British soldiers in close confinement to be kept as hostages in the manner above related.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 121, p. 269.)

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**Anne Powell to Justice W. D. Powell.**

YORK, May 31st, 1813.

(Extract.)

John P[owell] is safe, but not with the army. It is said the fracture of a bolt, very material to the use of the most important gun, (24-pounder,) committed to his charge, obliged him to spike it, but it is supposed he was first abandoned by his men. I hope for all our sakes he can justify his conduct. Col. Claus and his family are with the army. The weather has been dreadful. We are not hovering over the fire as if it was March.

(From the Powell Papers, Toronto Public Library.)

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**Sir James Yeo to Hon. John Wilson Croker.**

His Majesty's Ship *Wolfe* at Kingston  
on Lake Ontario, the 31st May, 1813.

(No. 4.)

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that in consequence of the enemy's attack at Fort George it was deemed advisable by His Excellency Sir George Prevost and myself to cause a diversion in favor of our troops in that quarter. It being determined that Sackett's Harbour should be the point of attack, the squadron was with much exertion and difficulty got ready on the evening of the 27th inst., and sailed with part of the troops of the garrison on board. On the morning of the 28th we were in sight of Sackett's Harbour, but from light winds and calms the attack could not be made that day. It was therefore resolved to land at daylight the next morning, which was accordingly done under cover of the gunboats commanded by Captain Mulcaster, to whom, with the officers and men under his orders, every praise is due, tho' the gunboats were totally inadequate with small carronades to make any impression on their forts and blockhouses. Then the troops, after gaining decided advantages, were reluctantly ordered to re-embark and leave a

beaten enemy, having obliged them to set fire to their stores and retire within their enclosed forts and blockhouses.

(Admiralty Papers, Canadian Archives, M. 389-6, p. 22.)

**A List of Petty Officers and Seamen Killed and Wounded, belonging to the Naval Establishment in Canada, the 29th May, 1813, in an Attack on Sackett's Harbour.**

Alexander West, A. B., killed.

Mr. Fred Johnston, midshipman, a musket ball through the small of the right leg.

Thos. Smith, A. B., wounded slightly.

Roger Owen, A. B., do. severely.

Timothy Collins, Ord'y do. do.

George Bennett, coxswain, do. slightly.

JAMES L. YEO,

Commodore.

(Canadian Archives, M. 389-6, p. 21.)

**Notes by Capt. Wm. H. Merritt.**

Early on the morning of the 15th (29th ?) I was sent down to reconnoitre and find how far the enemy had advanced. I sent my horses in the rear and pressed others to go on. [I] had a party of eight or ten men. On my arrival at the 12 [I] found a party had proceeded to DeCoo's of 40 or 50 horsemen. At Shipman's met a few rifles whose commander mistook me for one [of his own people]; found the enemy had not advanced with any force; returned to the 20; sent a few men on in advance; went home by the lake road and found Mr. Adams was only wounded and in a fair way of recovering. [I] persuaded my father to return and remain with the family. [I] remained at home till midnight when I took leave [and] returned to the Forty. The army had proceeded on to Burlington. [I] received an order to remain at the Forty with a few militiamen and 7 or 8 dragoons, till driven in by the Americans. On the 16th (30th ?) a flag of truce came up, Major Pinckney and Captain Armstrong. [I] detained them at the Forty till the 17th (31st May ?). As soon as they left us I received intelligence of the enemy approaching. My videttes were driven in from the 20 early in the morning; in the afternoon their advance were within three miles of me. A party of 20 or 30 horsemen came on to the Forty, which obliged me to retire on our advance at Stony Creek. By this time I was completely knocked up, so were both my men and horses, having been deprived of sleep and rest for 6 or 8 days. On my joining the [main] body a relief was sent in my place. I quartered

at Barton. Mrs. Gordon came up and joined the army, with her husband, and I was generally provided with good quarters when she was present.

(From the Merritt MSS.)

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— To Lt.-Col. Thomas Clark, 2nd Lincoln Militia.

STAMFORD, June 1st, 1813.

Last night we left at Mr. Cavers's 23 barrels of salt, 3 barrels of flour, 1 barrel of tar and all the rigging belonging to the ship.

Next morning Los and Jacob Stinehoff and Peter and Daniel Severes (Servos?) and thin John Silverthorn and John Young took 7 barrels of salt and 1 barrel of tar and some ropes.

John Howell took 1 barrel of salt and some ropes.

John Ostrander took 2 barrels of salt and some ropes.

Nathan Caho took 2 barrels of salt.

Joseph Burger, John Pettet and Andrew Willson took 5 barrels of salt and some ropes and sails.

We sent to John Misener 37 barrels of flour, and the 3d of June [when] he came home he found that 10 barrels were missing, of which he found in Kelce's possession 3 barrels, and the remaining 7 can't be found.

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John Norton to Sir George Prevost.

BURLINGTON BAY, June 1st, 1813.

SIR,—I am highly impressed with the honour you have done my friends and myself in noticing our humble exertions against our enemies. At the same time I regret with an aching heart their having been less efficient in the late affair.

This misfortune does not, however, in any manner diminish the confidence I have in God and the justice of our cause, and when our force shall be so augmented as to put us in a condition to try again the fortune of war, I hope that the blood of our enemies shall obliterate the remembrance of our misfortune.

I am equally desirous with yourself to increase the number of the warriors who follow me to the field, but to effect this I am deficient in the means except such as nature may have given, consequently I am only supported by those who are induced by personal affection or a love of glory to risk with me.

To enable me to preserve that good order necessary in war among our people, and to induce the warriors of other tribes to join them, it appears to me necessary that I should have the power of rewarding them according to their merits, and that the Indian

Department should not step in between them and me, for I have had too much reason to suspect that the influence which the King's liberality gives has operated to weaken my authority. I have been candid in laying before Your Excellency these remarks because I am determined to exert myself to the utmost to annoy the enemy, and should I be thwarted in this country in prevailing on a sufficient number of warriors to second my endeavours I shall be obliged to make trial to the westward, where, from the nature of the country and disposition of the people, such influence has less weight.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 121, p. 271.)

**Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.**

(No, 64.)

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON, 1st June, 1813.

MY LORD,—

The despatch I had the honour of addressing to Your Lordship on the 26th ult. was scarcely closed when information arrived of the enemy's flotilla being off Niagara, having on board a second reinforcement of troops calculated to carry the force acting against Colonel Vincent to at least eight thousand regulars besides volunteers and militia, the Colonel having only on that frontier two thousand men to oppose this formidable preparation. When the last accounts left Fort George it had sustained an incessant cannonade of twenty-four hours duration, which deprived our troops of every building in and near the work except the powder magazine and the splinter proof barracks. No reinforcement being as yet within many days march of this post, and the situation of Upper Canada becoming extremely critical, I determined in attempting a diversion in Colonel Vincent's favour by embarking the principal part of the small garrison of this place and proceeding with them to Sackett's Harbour. Accordingly the troops, being placed under the command of Colonel Baynes, were embarked on board His Majesty's vessels, the *Moir*, *Beresford*, *Sir Sidney Smith*, *Wolfe* and *Royal George* and arrived in sight of the enemy's port at Sackett's Harbour at break of day on the 27th ulto., but light and adverse winds prevented their nearing the fort until the evening. Arrangements were made for the attack at the dawn of the following morning.

Altho', as Your Lordship will perceive by the report of Colonel Baynes which I have the honour herewith to transmit, the expedition has not been attended with the complete success which was expected from it, I have great satisfaction in informing Your Lordship that the courage and patience of the small band of troops employed on this occasion, under circumstances of peculiar hardship

and privation, have been exceeded only by their intrepid conduct in the field, forcing a passage at the point of the bayonet through a thickly wooded country, affording constant shelter and strong positions to the enemy but not a single spot of ground favourable to the operations of disciplined soldiers.

The enemy filled the woods with infantry supported by field-pieces, and kept up a heavy and destructive fire which could not, however, stop the determined advance of His Majesty's troops, who after taking three of their field-pieces drove far superior numbers by a spirited charge to seek shelter within their blockhouses and enclosed works. At this moment the enemy were induced to burn their storehouses, but a heavier fire than that of musketry having become necessary in order to force their last position, I had the mortification to learn that the continuation of light and adverse winds had prevented the co-operation of the ships, and that the gunboats were unequal to silence the enemy's elevated battery or to produce any effect on their blockhouses. Considering it therefore impracticable without such assistance to carry the strong works by which the post was defended, I reluctantly ordered the troops to leave a beaten enemy whom they had driven before them for upwards of three hours, and who did not venture to offer the slightest opposition to the re-embarkation, which was effected with proper deliberation and in perfect order.

Apprehensive that if I continued any longer in the enemy's port their flotilla might return and meet our vessels encumbered with troops and inferior in numbers, I returned with the fleet on the 30th and landed the troops, together with the brass field-pieces, six-pounders taken from the enemy and four officers and one hundred and fifty of their soldiers prisoners.

Having placed the force employed on this occasion under the immediate command of Colonel Baynes, I beg leave to refer Your Lordship to his report for the further particulars of the affair.

I have now to acquaint Your Lordship that while the numbers of the enemy are rapidly increasing those with which I have to defend an extensive frontier have as yet experienced no material augmentation, as the reinforcements of troops announced to me by Your Lordship in your despatch No. 24 of the 12th of March as coming from the Mediterranean, Cadiz and the West Indies have not yet arrived. The inevitable consequence will, I fear, be the loss of a part of Upper Canada from my total inability to support the extraordinary exertions making by His Majesty's forces in this unequal contest, in the conducting of which the enemy now evince both a system and a sufficiency of means.

**General Orders.**

KINGSTON, June 2d, 1813.

No. 1.—Major Drummond, 104th Regiment, is appointed to act as Deputy-Quartermaster General to the troops serving in the Canadas.

No. 2.—Captain O'Connor of the Royal Navy having been appointed to act as commissioner of the navy department in Upper Canada, and that officer being ready to assume the duties of that office at Kingston, the Quartermaster General's department will deliver over to him such stores as are in its charge belonging to the marine department and transfer all persons from the 24th of June as are attached to it for that service.

No. 3.—Lieut. Baillie, 1st or Royal Scots, is appointed to act as Fort Adjutant at Kingston and will assume the duties of that department.

EDWARD BAYNES,  
Adjutant-General.

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**Lieut.-Colonel Farvey to Major Titus G. Simons, Incorporated Militia.**

3d June, 1813, BEASLEY'S.

MY DEAR SIR,—

General Vincent desires me to say that you must come to Head Quarters. Your local knowledge and other qualities not necessary to enumerate render you particularly valuable to him at the present moment. Some other officer must take charge of the militia going to Stoney Creek and you must give us the benefit of your advice and assistance here.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 341, p. 206.)

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**Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.**

(No. 65.)

KINGSTON, UPPER CANADA, 3d June, 1813.

MY LORD,—

I had the honour of informing you in my despatch No. 64 of the 1st instant of the appearance of the enemy's fleet off Niagara, and of the effects of the cannonade from their ships and batteries on Fort George on the 24th and 25th ulto. I have now the honour of acquainting Your Lordship that on the 27th the enemy succeeded in effecting a landing about two miles from that fort under the cover of the fire of their flotilla and batteries with a force so very far superior to any which we could bring against them that, not-

withstanding the most determined and gallant opposition on the part of His Majesty's troops under the command of Colonel Vincent, he was unable to maintain his position on that frontier, and obliged, after falling back upon Queenston, to retire with the whole of his army, which he had collected from Chippawa and Fort Erie, to the head of the lake.

By the report of Colonel Vincent, which I have the honour herewith to transmit, Your Lordship will find that this part of the frontier was not abandoned until every possible exertion had been made to retain it and until the forts and batteries had been rendered, at least for a time, a useless acquisition to the enemy by their destruction and that of the ammunition which could not be carried away.

I have great satisfaction in stating to Your Lordship that notwithstanding the unequal contest which was so long and so gallantly supported by a handful of His Majesty's troops against an overwhelming force, the army has not been very considerably weakened by the loss they have sustained, and that they were enabled to retire without molestation from the enemy to a position at the head of Lake Ontario, where Colonel Vincent will endeavour to make a stand until I shall have it in my power to reinforce him or until circumstances shall oblige him still further to fall back. Conceiving that the appearance of the fleet under Commodore Sir James Yeo off the position occupied by Colonel Vincent might give additional consequence to his troops, I have embarked the remainder of the 8th Regiment, consisting of about two hundred men, with which and a supply of clothing, ammunition and provisions, the fleet sailed this morning.

The enemy's flotilla were seen yesterday returning to Sackett's Harbour, to which place they had without doubt been recalled by the attack upon it.

I last night received a confirmation of this fact from a flag of truce which had been sent over with one of our wounded officers, from whom I learn that their fleet is in port and that the whole of the naval stores collected at Sackett's Harbour were consumed by fire on the day of the attack.

I sincerely regret that I cannot add to this despatch a report of the arrival of any portion of the troops announced to be on their way to Quebec from Cadiz, Malta and the West Indies.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 121, p. 248.)

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**General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON,  
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, 3d June, 1813.

G. O.

The Commander of the Forces has received from Brigadier-General Vincent a report that the enemy having cannonaded from his batteries and ships the whole of the 24th and 25th of May the fortress and works of Fort George, and very materially destroyed and injured the defences of that post, on the 27th at daybreak made a general attack upon that position and under cover of their fleet, which kept up a tremendous and most destructive fire, effected the landing of a body of troops ten-fold as numerous as the detachment allotted for the defence of that portion of the Niagara frontier. Regardless of the immense superiority of the enemy his advance was gallantly and obstinately disputed. A judicious position was occupied by Lieut.-Colonel Myers, and when that zealous and meritorious officer was obliged to quit the field, having received three wounds, he was ably replaced by Lieut.-Colonel Harvey, and the unequal contest continued with unshaken gallantry and determination.

Brigadier-General Vincent, considering further perseverance against an overwhelming force a fruitless sacrifice of valuable lives, having gained by their intrepid resistance the means of dismantling the fort and destroying the stores, he directed the troops to fall back on Queenston, which was done with perfect order.

Brigadier-General Vincent reports that this movement was ably covered by the companies of the Glengarry Light Infantry, strengthened by a detachment of the Royal Newfoundland Fencibles and militia, and these troops were gallantly sustained by a division of the 8th or King's Regiment, commanded by Major Ogilvie.

Brigadier-General Vincent has concentrated his force in a strong position at the head of the lake.

EDWARD BAYNES,  
A. G.

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**John Askin to Mr. D. Cameron at York.**

MICH[ILIMACKINAC], June 3, 1813.

MY DEAR SIR,—

Your letter of the 4th ult. reached this the 28th ulto. and should have been answered long ere this had it not been for the constant arrival and departure of Indians for Detroit, which I had to send off with the utmost despatch in order to afford every aid to that quarter, from whence they would be sent to Fort George or

elsewhere when required ; also in procuring canoes for those Indians I now send to your quarter. The Missisauquay and LaCloche Indians must have reached you long ere now for they left LaCloche early in the spring. I expect the Lake Superior Indians every day and shall send them to you, also with an interpreter, Mr. Joseph Cadotte, to prevent their injuring our subjects, for they cannot know the disaffected settlers from the others. The account of the transactions which have taken place with you is distressing, but I trust in God that a change has taken place ere this. Those scoundrels and cut-throats should be pointed out to the Indians and they will soon make an example of them. As York was not a place of defence I was rather astonished that a vessel was building there which could not be protected. I am extremely sorry to hear that poor Mrs. Givins and her family have suffered so much, but as my friend Givins is unhurt he will soon be able to take ample satisfaction for the injury done his family.

No doubt long ere this you have received official accounts of General Procter's having attacked Gen. Harrison at Fort Meigs on the Miamis River with a force of 500 regulars, 240 militia and 1200 Indians, and while his batteries were cannonading the enemy's fort a reinforcement of 1400 Kentuckians arrived. Our batteries were carried by them and retaken again, and the whole cut to pieces except 488 prisoners which survived, prisoners of war. At the time the reinforcement attacked our right wing General Harrison made a sortie from his fort, but was drove back into his fort with slaughter. We lost only two or three men of the regulars, Capt. Bondy of the Essex Militia and 19 Indians killed and wounded. Two hundred Ottawa warriors have already left this for the aid of Amherstburg, and every day parties are going off. There are sixty more Chippewas and Ottawas here, which will set off in a day or two at farthest, exclusive of the 20 odd Chippewas who accompany the bearer hereof. Col. Boucherville, Prov. A. D. C., brought us the information respecting the surrender of your place to General Dearborn. R. D[ickson], Esq., isn't arrived as yet, nor any answer whatever. The boats which left this on the 3d ulto. haven't returned. When he arrives he will find canoes, &c., &c., ready. Every Indian that can bear arms along L[akes] Michigan and Huron from Saginaw Bay to Matchedash are going to exert themselves in driving away if possible these scoundrels that have harassed them so long. Lt. H. McLean, A. D. C. to General Procter, and Staff Adj. Reiffenstein left this for Montreal *via* the Grand River this day. Have the goodness to let me know by the first opportunity how my friend Mr. Selby is. I am anxious to hear of him, it having been reported to me that he was very ill some time past. Our mutual friend

Crawford arrived here with Alexr. McKenzie on the 28th ulto. from Montreal; the latter gentleman went off to Fort William two days after his arrival. Have the goodness to inform Major Givins, (if returned from Kingston,) that it will be necessary to have some one along this route near Matchedash or Bearman's to supply the Indians with prov[isions] or else to give them the necessary instructions as to the route they are to pursue. I will write you again in a few days by Mr. Cadotte.

P. S.—I enclose you a sketch of Fort Meigs, &c., and the situation of our forces when attacking and attacked by the reinforcement, and my son's letters having an explanation of the same. The hurry of business prevents my writing to the D'y S[uperintendent] G[eneral], and have to request that you will give the earliest information and send him the enclosed sketch if it has not been already sent you or him.

(Canadian Archives, M. G. 11.)

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### General Order.

KINGSTON, June 3d, 1813.

Brigadier-General Darroch being arrived is appointed to the station at Kingston and will place himself under the orders of Major-General Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe, Bart. Lieut. Cotton, 69th Foot, is appointed Aid-de-Camp to Brigadier-General Darroch.

Brigadier-General Darroch is appointed to command in the Midland District. All reports, applications, requisitions, &c., from the posts of Kingston, and Points Frederick and Henry are therefore to be addressed to him.

E. BAYNES,  
Adjutant General.

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**Colonel John Vincent to Colonel E. Baynes.**

BOZELEY'S, 4th June, 1813.

DEAR COLONEL,—

I have made no change in my intentions since I wrote last. The enemy are advancing, but not so rapid or in such force as I expected. They have taken post at the 40 Mile Creek, and I just understand that their strength at that post consists of one hundred dragoons and two thousand men. I have likewise reason to suppose that men will be embarked at the fort of Niagara to attack me in front on the lake side, but still if they do not come on in an overwhelming force I do not think they will find it an easy matter again to make me quit my post. If I am reduced to the necessity of

retreating to Kingston I am afraid it will be adding to Brigadier-General Procter's misery, in sending him the remaining companies of the 41st, the Newfoundland and a part of the Glengarry according to the instructions I received this day by Captain McDouall, as I am too much afraid he is at this present moment in great distress for provisions, and unfortunately the *Queen Charlotte* was unable to take thirty barrels of pork from Point Abino. I am doing everything I properly can to assist him. Six militia officers, all active and picked men, are sent forward to purchase and drive all the cattle they can find from this to Sandwich. I have been able to procure, to assist this service, from Colonel Clark five hundred guineas, which I hope will remove all difficulties with those farmers who will not take paper money.

Captain Milnes will, I suspect, be the bearer of this. I am sorry to part with him, as I found him not only of the greatest service to myself but as active an officer in the field as any under my command. He is perfectly able to explain our situation and what can be expected from [us ?]

I am so hurried with other matters that I have requested Colonel Harvey would write you on all the particulars of this post at the present moment.

By a report I have just received from my outposts an attack cannot be far distant. As circumstances are at present I am determined *if possible* to be *beforehand with them*. I shall therefore detain Captain Milnes until to-morrow.

(Canadian Archives, C. 679, p. 19.)

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### Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.

United States Ship *Madison*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 4th June, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to present to you, by the hands of Lieutenant Dudley, the British Standard taken at York on the 27th of April last, accompanied by the mace over which was hung a human scalp. These articles were taken from the Parliament House by one of my officers and presented to me. The scalp I caused to be presented to General Dearborn, who I believe still has it in his possession. I also send by the same gentleman one of the flags taken at Fort George on the 27th of May.

(From the Historical Register of the United States, 1814, Vol. II., p. 221.)

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**Lieut.-Col. J. B. Glegg to Wm. Jarvis, Secretary, York.**

HEADQUARTERS, HEIGHTS OF BURLINGTON,  
4th June, 1813.

DR. SIR,—

We all feel much obligation for the daily attentions which are hourly shewn us by our York friends, and I hope a future moment may arrive when our mutual gratitude may be evinced in a manner more commensurate to your kindness. Two of your sons are here with us and nothing can exceed their willing disposition to render themselves useful. I have just given your son-in-law, (Mr. Hamilton,) a pass for Samuel to fetch Mrs. H. and family from the 20. I hope his object will not be defeated by any unlooked for event.

I take the liberty of sending to your care a few packages containing official and private papers belonging to my valuable friend, Colonel Myers, the Quartermaster General, who, poor fellow, received five wounds on the 27th, of which I am happy to say he is doing well. You will confer much obligation by allowing the packages to remain in a dry, secure place until fortune smiles on our efforts.

(From MS. in possession of G. M. Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

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**Captain Robert McDouall to Brig.-General Procter.**

HEAD OF LAKE ONTARIO, 4th June, 1813.

MY DEAR GENERAL,—

A series of misfortunes have suddenly befallen us. Perhaps before you receive this you will have learned that the army under General Dearborn crossed the Niagara line on the 27th ult., and after being most gallantly opposed by the King's, Newfoundland and Glengarry Regiments got possession of Fort George, and compelled the whole of our troops to retire upon this position. Here General Vincent means to make a stand, but in the event of his being beat and forced altogether to retire to Kingston he is directed by the orders which I yesterday brought him to detach to your assistance the remainder of the 41st Regiment, two companies of the Newfoundland and the remainder of the three companies of the Glengarry Regiment. The companies of the two latter corps are much weakened by the action of the 27th.

I learn with infinite regret your distressed situation for want of provisions, and it is certainly unfortunate that a considerable quantity of pork intended for your use was destroyed at Point Abino for fear of falling into the enemy's hands. I hear you have flour enough and I hope you will have plenty of fresh beef. It is said that the enemy have detached troops against you. Your situation,

it must be owned, is sufficiently embarrassing, but Sir George on my leaving him, knowing but imperfectly the events here and still more so those of your neighborhood, relies with confidence on your zeal and ability, certain that the most indefatigable exertions will be made on your part in defence of your post, and of the squadron which, (whatever may happen,) must not fall into the hands of the enemy.

Our fleet under Sir James Yeo is now on the lake determined to fight, and at present fully able to beat the enemy's. All are anxious for the meeting, for a naval victory on our part would soon restore matters to their usual flourishing state. Colonel Baynes with a force of only 800 men attacked Sackett's Harbor on the 29th ult. It was supposed the garrison was small in consequence of their having detached so many men to Niagara—we found, however, upwards of 3,000. Our gallant little band drove them at the point of the bayonet into their works, (though with a good deal of loss,) which were found much too strong to carry with our small force without artillery and unassisted by our large ships, a calm having prevented their co-operation. Thus separated we re-embarked without any opposition, having taken from them three field pieces and one hundred and fifty men.

When I left Kingston 2,000 men were on the march for that place, including the 2d Battalion of the 41st, DeWatteville's and Meuron's. The 13th and 98th were hourly expected to arrive at Quebec. We may look for other reinforcements from Spain, which will I hope enable us to recover our lost ground.

(From Niles' Weekly Register, Baltimore, Md., 15th January, 1814, Vol. V., pp. 327-8. Said to have been taken in General Procter's baggage on 5th October, 1813.)

### **Militia District General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, BURLINGTON BAY,  
4th June, 1813.

Having witnessed with admiration the gallant conduct of that part of the militia which happened to be in the neighborhood of Fort George, and which at the moment of attack instead of diminishing actually increased to nearly double its numbers by the influx of its brave members who were within reach of the scene of action, and whom the sound of cannon brought to aid us in repelling the common enemy. Deeply impressed with the noble conduct of the militia on that occasion, and firmly convinced of the unshaken loyalty and attachment to the British Government of by far the greatest portion of the population of this Province, Brigadier-General Vincent feels that it is only necessary for him to point out

to the militia officers and soldiers how they can best under the circumstances promote the cause in which we are engaged to ensure on their part the warmest support and the most cordial co-operation.

It is not by joining us as a military body that our cause can at this moment be best advanced. When our reinforcements have all arrived and all other arrangements matured for repossessing ourselves of the country we have for the moment yielded, and for driving the invader far back into his own settlements, then will the gallant militia of Upper Canada be called upon to join and add inestimable strength in our ranks.

J. HARVEY, Lt.-Col.,

D. A. Gen'l of the Forces.

Major Titus G. Simons,

Com'dg the Incorporated Militia, Burlington.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 341, pp. 209-210.)

**At a Council Held at Kingston on Friday, the Fourth Day of  
June, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirteen :**

**PRESENT.**

His Honour Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe, Bart., President.

The Hon'ble Thomas Scott.

The Hon'ble John McGill.

The Hon'ble William Dummer Powell.

His Honor the President submitted to the consideration of the Board the propriety of issuing a proclamation calling the attention of the public to the laws respecting the property of the Crown.

In addition to the former representation that much of the public stores at York had been plundered by individuals, or was in their possession by pretended gift from the enemy, His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief has submitted that the army of Genl. Vincent was in want of many of the articles of public property so possessed, and expressed very strongly his sense of the necessity of some act of government to explain publicly the law upon this subject, to apprise the ignorant of their contravention.

The Council hereupon resumed their deliberation, and conceiving the expediency to be established by so high authority on sufficient grounds, and that its sanction only is wanted to the form of the act, unanimously concur with His Honour and advise that a proclamation do issue calling upon all His Majesty's subjects who by any means may be in possession of public stores or the property of the Crown to restore the same to the sheriffs of the respective

districts in which they may reside, or to such persons as may be appointed by His Honour to receive it.

W. D. P. for Cl.

Approved, R. H. SHEAFFE,  
President, &c.

(From MS. in possession of G. M. Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

**Hon. Wm. D. Powell to Edward Brenton.**

YORK, 4th June, 1813.

SIR,—Conformably to the pleasure of His Excellency the Governor General I have the honour to enclose to you copies of the proceedings of the magistrates, &c., at York during the possession of the town and the harbour by the enemy. I beg leave to submit for His Excellency's information that under the existing circumstances it was thought inexpedient especially to advert on the plunder or receipt of public property, which in such case would have been concealed from search or defended by force, which the police had no means to control. But in aid of that object the sheriff was directed by the meeting to consider himself the King's bailiff as usual, and when property was found by himself or pointed out by others to take it into his hands, leaving the claimant to establish his claim to the possession by the ordinary cause of law, until a change of circumstances enabled the ministers of the law to act with decided power to overcome opposition; this measure was deemed merely prudence.

(From MS. in possession of G. M. Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

**From a Diary kept by Thomas McCrae.**

RALEIGH, 5th June, 1813.

Billy arrived from Sandwich with the news that Fort George was taken by the Yankey's on the 26th May.

7th June.

The express passed with the news of General Vincent's retreat to Beasley's.

(From the original in possession of A. McCrae, Buffalo, N. Y.)

**A Diary by Colonel Claus.**

FORT GEORGE, 24th May, 1813.

10 o'clock P. M.—The 6-pounder at Brown's Point opened upon boats that the enemy were putting into the water and continued firing all night. 2 o'clock A. M., 25th—Lieut. Charleton, R. A.,



opened the 6-pounder at Navy Hall on boats passing on the opposite side of Niagara River. Lieut. Ball, militia artillery, fired from the 24-pounder shrapnel at the boats—ordered to discontinue firing. 3 o'clock—The 9-pounder at the Mortar battery in town fired, the 18-[pounder] at the Cherry Trees also, upon which I ordered the 24-pounders at the Flagstaff and Brock's battery to open their fire. After two or three shot stopped firing.

27th, 7 o'clock—Received orders to open the mortars on the American garrison, and the fire was shameful bad. The enemy appeared in three divisions, covered by their fleet; the second was attended by the ship *Madison*, the 3d by the *Oneyda*, the first by schooners. About daylight a rocket was thrown up by the Salt Battery, upon which their fire commenced and was kept up very warm, and burnt the remainder of the buildings in the fort; the landing was effected between Mr. Crook's and the lighthouse; between 4 and 5000 men. About 500 of ours opposed them and drove the first division. 10 o'clock—Our troops retreated and formed in front of Mr. Wm. Dickson's house. I wrote to General Vincent for orders and received a letter from Colonel Glegg to evacuate the garrison and follow the General on the Queenston road.

I immediately ordered the company of the 49th Regiment and the militia to move out—remained with Lieut. Charleton, R. A., Mr. Gordon, Commissary of Stores and Mr. Mathewson to set fire to the magazine; the above gentlemen left the garrison and I returned to see if the flagstaff was near down; the axes were so bad that it was not half cut; the downhaul was cut by a shot early in the morning. I found it useless to remain unless I wished to be made prisoner, and therefore left the Garrison. Soon one of the magazines blew up. At the time I went out of the breach by the octagon blockhouse a flag came in at the gate. Overtook General Vincent at Swayzy's farm at 2 o'clock; halted on the mountain with the field artillery, which was all brought off. Sent by Lieut.-Colonel Harvey with a letter to Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp; delivered the same to Lieut. Barnard at Chippawa and returned to Lieut.-Colonel Clark's; got dinner there and layd down to rest; took tea and returned expecting to find the centre division at Mrs. Tice's, but found the whole force in motion towards Decow's at the Beaver Dams; arrived there about 10 at night.

28th, 11 A. M.—The troops moved on and got to Henry's this night. Some went on to the 40.

29th May—I arrived at the 40 about 12 M. Mrs. Claus and family overtook me at the 40 about 2 o'clock and went on to Mr. A. Nelles's.

30th—Remained at the 40.

31st—Moved on and the troops got in cantonments in Barton.  
I went on with my family to Mrs. St. John's.

31st—Remained in the same position.

1st June ditto ditto.

2d " ditto ditto.

3d " ditto ditto.

4th " ditto ditto.

5th—Sent my family to York in a boat. In the evening an express arrived saying that the enemy had advanced to Stoney Creek; that their advance was engaged with Lieut.-Colonel Williams, 49th light infantry. The light infantry of the King's was sent out to support them. Their main force, 3,500, halted at Gage's. At 11 this night the King's and 49th advanced with one 6-pounder.

6th— $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 a. m. Our troops (as above) attacked the enemy in their camp and after half an hour's engagement were retired, taking 4 pieces of artillery, 3 of them 6-pounders, one a howitzer that had been taken at Saratoga. They retook 2 six-pounders. The wounded, killed, prisoners and missing was great, upwards of 200. We took Generals Winder and Chandler and several officers and 97 sergeants and privates. Wounded of ours, Lieut.-Colonels Plenderleath and Clark, 49th; Lieut.-Col. Ogilvie, King's; several officers killed; Ensign Drury, 49th, severely wounded in the head; the American surgeon who attended him took his watch and money from him.

7th—The wounded and prisoners brought up to headquarters.

8th—Busily employed in sending the wounded and prisoners to York.

9th—Remained in same position.

10th—General Vincent with the staff, the King's and 49th marched in the evening to the 40 Mile Creek, the 41st followed.

(From MSS. in possession of Miss Claus, Niagara, Ont.)



## **ERRATA**

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- P. 107, for Lieut. Barivis *read* Lieut. Barevis.
- P. 279, second line, for Metall *read* Nutall.
- P. 298, for Bozeley's *read* Bazeley's.

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